

# THE MYSTERY OF LOVE, COURTSHIP



# MARRIAGE EXPLAINED

PUBLISHED BY  
WEHMAN BROS.  
NEW YORK

THE MYSTERY  
—OF—  
Love, Courtship<sup>AND</sup> Marriage  
EXPLAINED.



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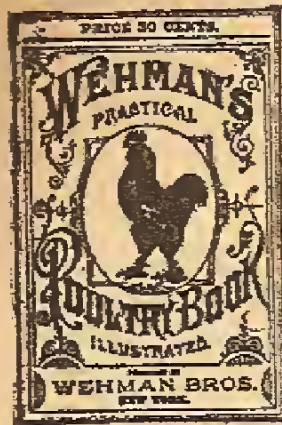
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# THE MYSTERY

OF

## LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

EXPLAINED.

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### Flirtations.

**P**RUDERY and Flirtation are both equally culpable, but between these two extremes there is a happy medium. Neither religion nor the proprieties of life require a young lady to be ascetic and disagreeable; and if she has recourse to prudery as a safeguard, she must be strangely afflicted with that weakness of conceit which has induced some young ladies to think themselves so captivating that every young gentleman must fall in love with them as soon as he sees them, and that every young gentleman who gives them a few kind-hearted words is decidedly smitten. Haughtiness and asceticism are always regarded in this particular case as the garb of hypocrisy.

Some lovers are by far too exacting in their demands on the demeanor of their lady elect. They cannot bear her from their sight, will not permit her to make the slightest exchange of friendship or good-will; in short, they require her to be rude and unkind to every single gentleman, by way of showing that she is engaged. Such exacting strictness is an unfavorable symptom in a lover, and should be traced to its true source whenever it presents itself. The origin of these limited views is generally found in a narrow, selfish and jealous heart. Life cannot be worked with these strict rules, and wherever the painful exactions are insisted on, the engagement had better be broken off.

But, while prudery can never be sanctioned by reasonable people, it is equally certain that no quarter can be given to the practice of flirting. Using signs and words of love, where no love is; accepting advances, which she intends ultimately to refuse; leading on the ensnared one, from step to step, only that she may have the pleasure of repelling and wounding him at last; this is the heinous and cruel conduct of the flirt.

"Oh, say not woman's love is true,  
That never felt its flame;  
'Tis man she glories to subdue,  
And love is—but a name."

The American Indians count their honors by the number of scalps they have taken; and the flirt seems to calculate her honors



much in the same way—reckons them by the quantity of hopes she has blighted, and the number of hearts she has scathed. Nevertheless, there is in this social life a law of retribution and compensation—a law which invariably vindicates itself in the unsuitability and miserableness of the flirt's marriage. It needs no Delphic oracle to prognosticate for her, with the certainty of fate, the worst possible match.

There are cases in which the practice of flirting arises, not from the desire of conquest, but from instability of affection and laxity of view on the proprieties of life. The former never know their own minds, and never hold the same class of opinions for a week together; and the latter are so *loose* in their creed and sentiments that no man's honor or happiness would be safe in their keeping.

If the flirt wishes her character to be respected, if she wishes to promote her own welfare and comfort, let her be warned in time. If she knew half the bitter things that are said about her, she would despise herself. When young gentlemen want fun, frolic and latitude, they go to the flirt; but when they are seeking a companion and help-meet for life, they pass by her with disdain. How often is it said, "She will do to flirt with, but she won't do to marry."

### How to know that you are really in Love.

Many young people, particularly of the male kind, imagine themselves in love when in truth they are not. Their supposed passion is but a fancy of the moment. An ardent young man is introduced to a pretty or interesting girl, and after a quarter of an hour's conversation is (in his own opinion) over head and ears in love with her. If he is a sensible man he will not betray his weakness, for should the result prove the correctness of his first impression, there can be no harm of concealing the sudden passion. If, on the contrary, he declares his partiality, either by words or absurd behavior, the flirt, if she be sensible, will be apt to look upon him with distrust, or as a silly fellow with little or no stability of character. It is impossible to know that you have a genuine feeling of love until long and intimate relations reveal to you the ways, the disposition, and even the inmost thoughts of the heart of your companion. Supposing, then, that there is no deception on either side—that two lovers have faithfully laid open their most secret feelings, and mutually understand each other's tastes, dislikes, peculiarities and habits. If all this knowledge increases rather than diminishes their friendship, they may then begin to suspect that they are in love. If all young couples would strictly adhere to this test before thinking of matrimony, there would be few ill-assorted matches and a great many more happy homes.

### Flattery.

This is a powerful weapon in the art of making love. Never lived there yet man or woman but what in some way or other could

be flattered. The great point is to know in what way to use it. There is a time and a place to use it. A young lady will feel flattered if you get a chance, young man, to tell her mother about the good qualities of her daughter; never fear but the daughter will hear of it, for women cannot keep a secret.

### Pet Names.

There is something romantic and beautiful in applying what is ordinarily termed "pet names" to interested parties. A lady who is named Mary, for instance, can be called Mollie; Anna, can be called Nannie; Mattie, for Martha; Callie for Caroline; Fattie for Harriet, &c. Indeed, no one can deny but there is an endearing thought brought to bear on a young lady's mind, thus named by her lover.

### Trying your Love.

Young ladies very often exercise a good deal of tact in trying a young man's love. They will act different from what the real feelings of their hearts would be, simply to try a young man's pluck, if I must so call it. Young men, don't weary in well doing, you know that "faint heart never won fair lady." Do not put too much stress upon any little remark a young lady may make, for she often means directly the reverse, especially if she is very young.

### The Love Code.

ART. 1. The source of love lies in two of the purest sentiments—admiration and hope.

ART. 2. Love is difficult to define; what we can say is, that in the soul it is a ruling passion; in the mind a lively sympathy, and in the body it is only a secret and delicate desire of possessing the object beloved, after many mysterious preliminaries.

ART. 3. Love is like a fever; it begins and ends without our volition having the least part in the matter. It is a happy chance, if we can congratulate ourselves upon the amiable qualities of the object of our affections.

ART. 4. The deepest love betrays itself by the most ridiculous appearances; by extreme timidity, for example, or awkward bashfulness.

ART. 5. The lover is near his happiness who begins to doubt of the bliss which he had promised himself, and reflects most severely upon the reasons he believed he had seen for hope.

ART. 6. In love, contrary to almost all other passions, the memories of the past are always superior to the hopes of the future.

ART. 7. The moment the most fatal to love is when the lover finds himself treated with contempt, and when he must, with his own hands, destroy the beautiful chimera which he has been at so much pains to construct.

ART. 8. Love is of all ages. Horace Walpole conceived the



most lively passion for Madame du Deffand when seventy, and the finest courtiers of Louis XIV. were charmed by this ghost.

ART. 9. Before the birth of love, beauty is a necessary attraction; it is predisposed by the praises bestowed upon those we would love. A very lively admiration renders the least hope decisive.

ART. 10. The lover finds, in the object of his adoration, all perfections, and those, too, of the most opposite kinds. This is the moral reason why love is the most violent of passions. In the others the desires may accommodate themselves to cold realities—in this, it is the realities which model themselves to our desires.

ART. 11. When he loves, the wisest man is quite incapable of seeing any object in its true light. He depreciates his real advantages, while he exaggerates the least favors he receives from the person beloved. Fear and hope make the fictions of his brain seem to him realities. He loses the idea of probabilities.

ART. 12. In love, women never pardon what they call a *lack of delicacy*. This term, invented by pride, is not very clear. It has the air of meaning something like what kings call high treason. It is a crime of all others the most dangerous, because it is one into which we fall without our knowledge.

### A Chapter on Love and Love-making.

A chapter on Love! Can there be one so bold as to essay a description of love in prose? Nay, leave it to the poet, the painter; but common prose is surely all unfit for such a theme. So will the young say; but as we are now old, we may have the boldness to write of love in humble prose, and to look at it in that prosaic aspect in which prudence and the cooler blood of experience have brought us to regard it. Love! what is it? It is as the perfume of the flower, the song of the bird, the dew of the morning, the glorious sun of the summer's day—such is love to life. Fragile as a gossamer web—a vapor which a breath dispels; but withal as the sea, whose soundings cannot be taken for the depth thereof. It is difficult to say at what period of early life the gentle-winged god's influence is most to be guarded against. The young and blooming girl, just budding into womanhood, feels his power, but does not to herself even acknowledge it; nay, she scarcely knows his presence. All unused as she is to the arts of Love, how can she readily recognize his secret magic? She is introduced to society; the novelty of her dress, the display of her charms, hitherto concealed, the care her *modiste* takes with that dress, for the fuller development of each beauty, are all new to her. She goes forth to the world all bewilderment; the child of the school-room to-day, to-morrow arrays herself to conquer and be conquered. Thus far is simple; thus far is what many mothers consider it their duty to attend to, and leave the rest to fate. But love is a deep study to those who would read it well and understand it. The delicate-minded maiden blushes, even when alone, when first she confesses to herself she loves. The truth has long before been known to

those around, who are more skilled in the art. A particular dress is selected, which is worn because the loved one says it is becoming; the hair is arranged in accordance with the expression of his approbation. Polkas are only danced with him—songs are sung that *he* admires—the ball-room is dull, dark, empty, till he arrives—the fair one's eyes, like Noah's dove, wander without finding a resting place—the cheek is pale and anxious. He enters; for the first time she observes the room is in a blaze of light. They are dancing; the music is playing; his eye wanders; she is still anxious, pale; he recognizes her; the young heart's-blood mantles her fair brow; her eyes glisten; her suddenly vermilion-tinted cheek and lip, as he approaches, proclaim silently but surely to the observer that Love has lost another shaft from his full quiver. And at this stage it is well for loving mothers to preserve their school-room power over their beautiful daughters. How much misery might be afterwards spared, if a mother's advice were now well given and received. A daughter's thoughts should be delicately anticipated. A mother's province is to guard, by advice, the future conduct of her child; and of what avail will such advice be if the parent cannot read the state of that child's heart. A mother should rather live over again her own sweet dream of love, while listening to the gentle hopes and fears of the daughter whose confidence she has for the wisest motives won, than by any expression repulse the young heart that is panting, but half ashamed, to hide her head in the bosom that nourished her, and pour forth her soul to almost the only earthly being whose every heartstring will truly vibrate with her own. Ashamed! we said; why should the young have this feeling with a mother? Is not love the sweetest, gentlest passion we are capable of—the great bond of life? For what is life without love? A desert, a wilderness.

Once having established this much desired confidence, the good mother, jealously guarding her daughter's happiness, will call in Dame Prudence; for, however much Love employs our thoughts, and engages for the present our pen, yet must he step aside to give place to Prudence; for the naturally unselfish heart of the young will not heed the timid knocks she gives until, perhaps, too late. The young of all conditions desire the company of those they love, perhaps, too frequently. But this cannot always be permitted; or, if so, under certain regulations and restrictions. But it should be understood that, as regards the choice made by a daughter, no parent should admit to his house, or into that familiar intercourse which, in nine instances out of ten, precedes a mutual attachment between two young persons, any individual of suitable age and character whom he would be unwilling to receive as a suitor for his child. True it is, indeed, that connections and acquaintanceships beyond the control or superintendence of the most watchful mother or father may be formed at parties, or while on a visit to a friend's house; but here, again, there should be a mutual guarantee in the prudence and character of the friends at whose house the daughters of a family are permitted to visit; and any devia-



tion from this the usual course of what we may call the ordinary course and progress of inceptive courtships, are accidents, rather than the ordinary circumstances of life, and exceptions rather than the rule.

For such accidents and exceptions, however, it behooves all to be prepared ; and it is the occurrence of connections so formed that render necessary a double prudence, and the observance of something like the stringent principles of a code of etiquette.

### **To Win the Favor of Ladies, and to make the Gentlemen come to Terms.**

It will be observed that when a young man first finds himself in the company of the fair sex he is seldom free from a degree of bashfulness, which renders him peculiarly awkward, and he scarcely knows what he is doing or saying, and I have known many such to commit errors that were truly laughable.

Always address a married lady, or widow, as Madame, or by name, Mistress L., Mrs. B., &c. A young lady, if the eldest of the family, unmarried, is entitled to the surname, as Miss Smith, or whatever her name may be, while her younger sisters are called Miss Mary, Miss Julia, &c., as the case may be.

Gentlemen will, on every suitable occasion, offer civilities to ladies of their acquaintance, especially to those for whom they may have a particular attachment. A gentleman meeting a lady is struck with her appearance, and wishes to become better acquainted. Now, before making any advances, you should find out from some friend whether she is engaged, or if any gentleman is paying particular attention to her—this might save you much future trouble.

Finding she is not thus circumstanced, you call her by name, and say, "Would it be agreeable to you for us to cultivate a more intimate acquaintance?" You need not say it in a tone as serious as if you were going to a funeral ; but in a light, easy, peaceful way, as though half in fun. You must not feel disappointed if she tells you such words as, "Well, we will see about it," or "Some other time we will talk it over." Something in this style will not be out of place, for she may not be expecting anything of the kind and does not wish to give too prompt an answer. If on any certain occasion you ask a lady for her company, and she should say that she is engaged, do not think anything strange of it, for such may be the case ; and you must never let a lady see that you feel disappointed at any time about such matters.

Gentlemen too often make themselves fools about ladies or a certain lady, and the consequence is the ladies have their own fun laughing at them. Never make yourself a fool for any lady, for it don't pay.

Just as certain as you make yourself appear uneasy about a lady, she is going to lead you a high game ; but show her you can be careless and unconcerned, and she is certain to become a little softer. Avail yourself of every opportunity to pay attention to the wants of

the ladies; always study what kind of company you are in, and act accordingly, being gay and lively with those who are of that turn of mind, and more steady and commonplace with those who like sound reasoning. Always appear neat and tasty, without haughtiness or stiffness of manners, and you may rest assured you will always find favor with the ladies.

It is too often the case that young men amuse themselves by playing with the feelings of young ladies. They visit them often, they walk with them, pay them divers attentions, and after giving them an idea that they are attached to them, they either leave them, or, what is worse, never come to an explanation of their sentiments. This is nothing less than acting the scoundrel; it is truly dastardly—infamous. This has been the cause of many a young and warm-hearted girl pining away by inches, to fill a premature grave.

Young ladies should never thus allow themselves to be trifled with. Let me say to you, young ladies, as a friend, when a gentleman pays you attentions for a length of time without giving you to understand what he wants—make him come to the point, do not be backward, or it may be your ruin.

Very often you can bring a young man to the point by getting a little careless when he comes to see you. You must appear to be more interested in something else. This will make him feel mighty uneasy, I can assure you, if he loves you any, and if he don't love you he has no right to be acting so, for this simple fact may keep other young men from courting you who would make a better husband than him. This is common sense, and you should bear it in mind. If this does not bring him to the point, you can take your chance, and tell him that a proper respect for yourself compels you to ask him his object in visiting you. Tell him that your friends and his are talking about it, and that it is time you had an understanding. Don't be afraid to speak for yourself, you have a perfect right so to act.

A word more to you, my lady friends: When you are courted by a gentleman, and he asks you to marry him, you should ask him whether it is for love that he wants to marry you? If he would dare make you his wife because you are handsome, or rich, or from any other cause, in which love does not enter, tell him "No!" Never marry unless you love, and are loved in return; for without love no happiness, and love that comes not before marriage comes not in a lifetime. It is not right to give an immediate answer when your hand is solicited in marriage. You should tell the gentleman that you had not been expecting a proposition of the kind, and wish a little time to study the matter over, and that you will give him an answer by some stated time, which you can mention. This will make the affair more interesting to all parties. In the meantime ask your parents their opinion on the subject.

When the appointed time comes be certain you have your answer ready, or else he might think you were coquetting him.



### Agreeable.

This is one of the most sly and hypocritical words in the whole jargon of love. Tame, moderate and modest as it sounds, it, not unfrequently, is a cover for the most intense and burning passion of love. A girl who is found too often in the company of a young man, when pressed for an explanation by an anxious mamma, will reply that she does not love him at all, but he is very *agreeable*. Which may simply mean that she is telling a little falsehood, or that she is deceiving herself.

It is a word which gallant gentlemen often address to very plain or ill-favored ladies. When desiring to be amiable to them, and to put such unfortunate women in good countenance with themselves, they will say, "*Madam, I take great pleasure in returning to you, for I really find nobody more 'agreeable' than yourself.*" As she would be most happy to believe this, she will be quite sure to swallow the bait. And if this is done with no sinister motive, but with the amiable feeling of genuine politeness, it is not only pardonable but *commendable*; for it is a duty which we all owe to society to render ourselves as *agreeable* to others as possible.

But let young girls beware how they allow that sly and mischievous god, Cupid, to hide himself under this plain and homespun word, "*agreeable!*" *Agreeable* is the outer gate to the temple of love, which, if a man passes, he is too apt to find all the other doors ajar.

### Wooring.

*Wooring*, which is sometimes confounded with *courting*, goes before courtship, as sappers and miners before an advancing army. It is the John the Baptist of the kingdom of love, which goes before to make the way plain for all the delirious endearments that follow in the career of courtship. It is one of the oldest and tenderest words in the history of love.

One of the quaintest poems extant on wooring was written by Nicholas Breton, in 1580 :

"In the merry month of May,  
In the morne, by break of day,  
Forth I walked by the wood-side,  
When as May was in his pride;  
There I spied, all alone,  
Phillida and Corydon.

"Much ado there was, God wot,  
He would love and she would not,  
She said—never man was true!  
He said—none was false to you!  
He said—he had loved her long;  
She said—love should have no wrong.

"Corydon would kiss her then—  
She said—maids must kiss no men  
Till they did for good and all!

Then she made the shepherd call  
All the heavens to witness, truth,  
Never loved a truer youth.

"Thus, with many a pretty oath,  
Yea and nay, and faith and troath,  
Such as silly shepherds use,  
When they will not love abuse,  
Love, which has beene long deluded,  
Was, with kisses sweete, concluded:  
And Phillida, with garlands gay,  
Was made the Lady of the May."

Milton says, that "To woo a woman is to tell her all her charms;" perhaps he'd better have said that it is to tell her that she possesses all the charms which she would be glad to have.

"Thou art the blood of heav'n,  
The kindest influence of the teeming stars!  
A god thy father was, a goddess was his wife;  
The wood nymphs found thee on a bed of roses,  
Lap'd in the sweets and beauties of the spring!  
Diana foster'd thee with nectar dew."

LEE'S *Lucius Brutus*.

"Never wedding, ever wooing,  
Still a lovelorn heart pursuing,  
Read you not the wrong you're doing  
In my cheeks' pale hue?"

"All my life with sorrow strewing  
Wed or cease to woo."

CAMPBELL.

### Embrace.

Embracing is vulgarly called hugging or squeezing, and is an operation of endearment that lovers are very apt to fall into when sitting alone by the side of each other. A seat under a tree, that grows on the banks of a limpid stream, where true lovers sit listening to the murmuring of the waters, and looking at their own forms gracefully mirrored beneath them, is a situation in which the arms unconsciously draw the yielding bodies into closer proximity than is absolutely necessary for the ordinary purposes of conversation.

Burns, in the "Cotter's Saturday Night," pronounces the following eulogy on this exquisite business:

"Oh, happy love! where love like this is found!  
Oh, heart-felt raptures!—bliss beyond compare!  
I've paced much this weary mortal round,  
And sage experience bids me this declare—  
If Heaven a draught of heavenly pleasure spare,  
One cordial in this melancholy vale,  
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest pair  
In other's arm breathe out the tender tale,  
Beneath the milk-white thorn that scents the evening gale."

Lord Byron, in language less holy, but quite as natural, draws the following picture of an embrace:—



"And Julia sat with Juan, half embraced,  
And half retiring from the glowing arm,  
Which trembled, like the bosom where 'twas placed.  
Yet still she must have thought there was no harm—  
Or else 'twere easy to withdraw her waist—  
But then the situation had its charm."

### Divided.

The affections of a lady or gentleman are sometimes said to be divided between two objects, and are, consequently, embarrassed in knowing which to choose. Where this is the case, however, the candidates may be sure that neither of them is really loved. The heart is never in such doubt. Prudence may cause the judgment to hesitate, avarice or ambition may debate which to take, but the *heart* itself is never in doubt between two objects. These outside sentinels may cause it to choose against itself, but can never divide its love.

The poets have always treated this idea of divided love in a comic way. The following old epigram, from the Greek, is an example :

"Within my heart two rival flames prevail,  
And double tempests on my bosom hail.  
This side to fair Chryseis I incline ;  
On that Melania's sparkling eyes catch mine.  
Take me, ye charmers, in just balance shar'd ;  
*Take each your side—I'm for my lot prepared.*"

This classic epigram has been reduced to two lines by Gay, in his "Beggars' Opera :

"How happy could I be with either,  
Were t'other dear charmer away."

### Love Gifts.

Gifts are sometimes among the first signs a lover ventures to show of his tender regard for the idol of his heart. At first, perhaps, he gives a single flower, and as he gets bolder a whole bouquet of flowers, and then, in due time, rings, bracelets, and all kinds of precious things follow, until at last he ventures the most precious gift of all—a kiss.

Now he is fairly launched on the tide of love-making, and, as he rows along, the love-presents are increased according to his means and liberality.

The gift of a simple flower, where it is the expression of fresh and truthful love, is a beautiful act ; and richer and more formal gifts may be properly bestowed upon one to whom one is engaged to be married ; but every lady should understand that, where this is not the case, the reception of rich gifts from the hands of a man brings also the suspicion and scorn of the world along with them. This fact is beautifully set forth by Robert Nicoll in the following lines, addressed to a poor but beautiful young girl, who suddenly appeared richly dressed :

"What! is it you, Lizette?  
 You a rich robe can wear?  
 You mounting an aigrette:  
 You deck'd with jewels rare?  
 Oh! no, no, no, no, no!  
 You are Lizette no more!  
 Oh! no, no, no, no, no!  
 Bear not the name you bore."

### Courtship.

Happy are the days of courtship; happy is it when two fond, truthful, loving natures are drawn together by that ardent affection, that holy passion, which God has implanted in the human heart; happy when that love is undisturbed, happy if that love be constant even in trouble and disappointment—a felicity that none can tell but those who have experienced its power—arising from the consciousness that one heart beats in unison with ours, that we have a second self—one in whom we can confide at all times, and in whose love we live. We dwell in a happy valley, and think not of the strange and desert land that stretches beyond the mountains around us. It is the period which we love to recall, and on which the sunshine ever seems to linger. The Mohammedans have an idea that the spots first consecrated to the worship of God are peculiarly holy and specially watched and guarded; that there the wild bird rests not, that there the wild beast dares not linger. So it is with those places where we first learned to love, and where we passed the happy hours of our courtship; they are sacred in our eyes, holy kaābas of the earth, shrines at which we worship, and to which we take many a delightful pilgrimage.

That silver-haired lady who seems so thoroughly to enjoy all the details of her loved one's wooing, who watches with a mother's anxiety and care, and whose heart is filled with the liveliest emotion when she notices the changing color on her daughter's cheek, and the eyes that grow brighter when *he* is near—ah, watching all this as a woman only can, entering into all this—the meaning of that smile, the tenor of that glance—as one who has loved only knows how, the mother lives again her own young life, and recalls the pleasant hours when she herself was wooed. The spring time of her life has departed, the green leaves all turned yellow, but the autumn leaves still remind her of the opening summer, and, dead and decayed though they be, she cherishes them as mementos of the past.

And that aged, widowed man, whose young hopes were blighted, who saw his beautiful and blooming wife grow pale and fade away, even he loves to think of his courtship days. The world seemed brighter then, the walk in the green woods was a more delightful thing—the summer's night with all its matchless beauty was fairer then:

"Summer nights were made for love;  
 And love was made for summer nights."



He felt it then, and loves to recall it now. He remembers the old moss-grown tree beneath whose gnarled arms he breathed his first love, he remembers the sweet and kind voice which gave reality to his visions and certainty to his hopes; a voice so sweet, he thinks, that it would have filled him with love, even for deformity itself. He remembers the slow walk home, how they lingered by the way, and how his arm was round her waist all the time! They were happy days, glorious days, wonderful days, like a dream of Eden, and he recalls them with a joy unknown to any but himself.

When love has been made known, when the passion has been declared, when the troth has been plighted, how happy are the hours which the lovers spend in each other's society; and before that passion has been spoken, before the joy anticipated has been realized, how sweet, how pleasant, how delightful the expectation and the hope. How necessary it is that this happiness should be preserved, that nothing should be suffered to mar its glory—that the affair should be so conducted as to cause no perplexity or discomfort, and leave no sting. Sometimes through inadvertence, carelessness, or want of knowledge, trifling circumstances are permitted to interfere with the bliss of this period of our lives. A pebble may turn the course of a stream. Everything calculated in any way to endanger happiness should be most carefully avoided. Coldness, indifference, waywardness, in either party, may produce the most unfortunate consequences; those who propose to unite their hands and fortunes should learn also to unite their tempers and dispositions, and to shun everything which may be a cause of offence. Let these hours of happiness be preserved pure and spotless—bright as a monarch's signet ring.

And let these days of courtship, when all is calm and beautiful, be but the rehearsal of the married state. Let love be the bud, courtship the expanding flower, and marriage the full-blown rose, fair to look upon and casting around a sweet perfume. Exhaust not the strength of the flower in the days of courtship, that marriage may be but a withered plant; but let a watchful eye be kept upon it, that love may become greater and more beautiful as the courtship proceeds. What is there a lover would not do for his mistress? What would he not undertake to do at her bidding? Romance and poetry have taught us that he would pass through any ordeal, enter upon any duty, however arduous, to win the hand of her he loves, and history teaches the same truth.

There was a shepherd of Mesopotamia, who had looked with loving eyes on a bright-eyed daughter of his race, and for her sake toiled seven long years, the hot sun blazing down by day, the desert wind most piercing cold of nights, and when his weary bondage ended, a slavery that seemed to him but of few days for the love he had to her, the man was deceived, and found that the loved one of his heart had been supplanted by an elder sister; but he could yet obtain her; seven more years of servitude, and then—ah well, he counted not the cost, but toiled on bravely, and Rachel was his own.



"Courtship," says Sterne, "consists of a number of quiet attentions, not so pointed as to alarm, nor so vague as not to be understood." As long as persons of different sexes only meet in daily intercourse on the broad footing of friendship, unless ulterior views of matrimony be entertained, no man is justified in singling out any lady from the rest, to whom he seeks to make such attentions agreeable. There is no thought so holy in this life as the first consciousness of love in the bosom of the young. As that consciousness is fanned into a flame, it will either purify and nourish or blight and destroy the happiness of the future. Goethe has shown that this early love, even in its best acceptation, is of the earth, earthy. "We love a girl," he writes, "for very different things than understanding. We love her for her beauty, her youth, her mirth, her confidingness, her character, with its faults, caprices, and God knows what other inexpressible charms; but we do not love her understanding. Her mind we esteem if it is brilliant, and it may greatly elevate her in our opinion; nay, it may enchain us when we already love. But her understanding is not that which awakens and influences our passions." Nor would a woman respect a man that told her he courted her on account of her understanding. It is her nature to look up to him. Hers is comparatively a fixed, secluded, and a meditative life; the world's experiences are his, and from his boyhood upwards a man is gaining that knowledge of its ways that will enable him to fight the battle of life, be his calling what it may. "Woman's lot," so taught Washington Irving, "is to be wooed and won; and, if unhappy in her love, her heart is like some fortress that has been captured and sacked, and abandoned and left desolate. How many bright eyes grow dim, and how many soft cheeks grow pale; how many lovely forms fade away into the tomb, and none can tell the cause that blighted their loveliness!" No man, therefore, who claims either to be a gentleman or a Christian man—and the words are in our land the strongest synonyms—will trifle with a woman's best affections; but, having made his choice, he will so seek to win her love, that when in after life the twain look back upon the past, that passage of their early life shall stand out as one only to be dwelt upon with pleasurable recollection. "The pleasantest part of a man's life," wrote the moralist, "is generally that which passes in courtship, provided his passion be sincere, and the party beloved kind with discretion. Love, desire, hope, all the pleasing emotions of the soul, rise in the pursuit."

We have already defined etiquette to be "The form or law of society enacted and upheld by the more refined classes as a protection and shield against the intrusion of the vulgar and impertinent." Let us add here, that the Etiquette of Courtship more particularly requires that we never lose sight of the axioms that, "in seeking the gratification of our own wishes, we should be careful not to offend those of others;" and also that "nothing so much prevents our being natural as the desire of appearing so;" for nothing so lowers a man in the eyes of woman as a sordid, selfish na-



ture; nothing so destroys her confidence in him, without which she cannot love him, as the doubt, or fear, that he is acting a part. Love requires not so much proofs as expressions of love, demands little else than the power to feel and requite love. And this feeling must be mutual, or else there is no love. Let the wooer be but sincere and tender, and the loved one gentle, confiding, and kind—with discretion, as we said before—and neither will require a strict rule and form of etiquette to guide them through the most blissful phase of human life, the more blissful because love is the only patrimony which has descended to us out of the paradise of our first parents, and the only gift not fettered by the law.

“Oh! then the longest summer's day  
Seemed too much in haste; still the full heart  
Had not imparted half”—

sang the bard, calling to mind the innocence of early and requited love. Love is full of confidence; so it is a by-word, “A reserved wooer makes a suspicious husband.” Thus:

“Suspicion overturns what confidence builds;  
And he that dares but doubt when there's no ground,  
Is neither to himself nor others sound.”

Like as in a game of chess, when the two opposing pawns step forth and greet each other in the middle of the board, and then remain in peaceful proximity for a time, so the young girl may be drawn from the family circle towards her incipient lover, by that mysterious attraction and those mute signs which govern the human heart.

“A slight blush, a soft tremor, a calm kind  
Of gentle feminine delight, and shown  
More in the eyelids than in the eyes, resign'd  
Rather to hide what pleases most unknown,  
Are the best tokens (to a modest mind)  
Of love, when seated on his loveliest throne—  
A sincere woman's breast; for over-warm,  
Or over-cold, annihilates the charm.”

So much for our white pawn standing alone, yet protected with a far-seeing care, which surrounds its little spot of ground, and guards it from all danger, provided that no imprudence on its own part betrays it into a doubtful or ruinous deviation from the right path; while challenging that lonely progress, the red pawn (alas! that it is sometimes black) surveys the advantages of the position thus boldly gained, and then:

“The glance none saw beside,  
The smile none else might understand;  
The whisper'd thought of hearts allied,  
The pressure of the thrilling hand;  
The kiss so guiltless and refined,  
That love each warmer wish forebore;  
Those eyes proclaim'd so pure a mind,  
E'en passion blush'd to plead for more;

The tone that taught me to rejoice,  
When prone, unlike thee, to repine;  
The song celestial from thy voice,  
But sweet to me from none but thine ;”

are indications of mutual liking and admiration, which is perhaps the happiest period of courtship. But poetry, charming as it is, must not over-ride etiquette; and our rules will admit of no kiss being given or received until the proposal has sanctioned such an endearment. Truly it is a caress “as old as the hills,” and yet is as young and fresh as ever. It pre-existed, still exists, and always will exist. It pervades all nature; but propriety, delicacy and refinement all forbid an infringement of the respect which is exacted, and all men should offer, to the woman whose love they wish to obtain. Signs like these contain a meaning which no true woman will trifle with. Receiving such encouragement, a man must at once obtain the consent of the parents of the young lady to continue his visits at their house; if not verbally, he must do so by letter, and state what his position is in the matter of pecuniary means, or his prospects of providing a suitable home for the object of his choice. By doing this, he does not compromise himself or the lady he seeks to win, should he find, upon more intimate acquaintance, that she is not calculated to make him happy; neither is the young girl herself embarrassed by an implied engagement, or a courtship which may result in disappointment, provided the friends or parents of the parties regard the communication made to them as *strictly confidential*. During these visits, if permission be accorded, there should be a careful observance of the habits of the family, so that no intrusion upon hours devoted to the comfort of the parents should evince a careless disregard of that respectful deference which ought to characterize the conduct of young men towards their seniors.

#### General Rules to be Observed in Conducting a Courtship.

1. Marriage is so *personal* a business that it will be readily conceded that it concerns the contracting parties more than it does relations and friends. For this reason the gentleman should first make sure that the affections of the young lady would, *in all probability*, centre upon himself, before he proposes to the parents or guardians. He should do this without entrapping the affections of the lady herself; which course would, should the engagement from family reasons fall to the ground, entail misery upon her.

2. Giving presents is always allowable; but they should be confined to trifles before an actual engagement between the parties. Any perishable article may be given without regard to cost, but valuable keepsakes should be reserved. Letters, trinkets and valuable presents, when engagements are broken off, are always returned by both parties.

3. In courting a lady with whom you were not previously acquainted, you should always address her as Miss So-and-so, or, in



case of much emphasis, my dear Miss So-and-so. It is not allowable to be too familiar at first, though if you have known her from childhood, or have had a long intimacy in the family, you may use her christian name. After engagement, use it exclusively when you address her. This rule will apply to ladies also, when addressing their beaux.

4. Love letters are very absurd things when (as they sometimes are) made public. The reason is, they concern only two persons in the world—the writer and the receiver. They should be plain, fervent, respectful, and to the point. Never write a letter merely for the sake of writing; let it always have some aim—a message, an invitation; or let it carry news of some kind. In other pages of this work we have given some specimens of love-letters, for the benefit of those whose profound love makes them dumb before the beloved object.

5. In public, or in company, the conduct of lovers should be guarded. Avoid all show of extreme preference, and never pass compliments. Neither caress nor chide before others, nor call each other endearing names, such as my dear, honey, pet, &c., &c. This rule will apply to married people as well as to those in the chrysalis state.

6. Long engagements are dangerous. If either party wavers in their attachment, he or she should be candid enough to confess it. A man who will continue his attentions to a young lady when he does not intend to marry her is a selfish egotist, and unfit for a husband under any circumstances. Ladies should never, by the slightest familiarity, encourage any one whom they would object to marry.

7. If your suit is rejected by the lady you are expected to abandon it; and, should you decide to try a second time to win her favor, do not be too importunate, and never visit her without special leave. Many ardent young lovers lose their sweethearts irretrievably by haunting them, when perhaps with proper management they might have succeeded. A girl does not always know her own mind until she becomes disgusted.

8. In love, women never pardon what they call a *lack of delicacy*. This term, invented by pride, is not very clear. It has the air of meaning something like what kings call high treason. In your intercourse, therefore, you should study carefully the peculiarities of the lady, and endeavor to conform your conversation and conduct to her ideas of propriety.

9. In quarrels between lovers, the man must always be at three-quarters of the expense of a reconciliation; but the woman must have prepared the way from the moment of the quarrel. Except in cases of jealousy, a quarrel generally begins on the side of the woman. She is angry at first with herself, or because familiarity with you begins to produce ennui, or because she is too sure of you. In place of giving quarrel for quarrel, it is sufficient, in such a case, to excite her imagination, to disquiet her heart, to arouse her



suspicious, and all the little doubts and fears which prevent the current of true love from running smoothly.

10. Caprice is a peculiarity of lovers that is often mistaken for inconstancy, while they are really very different. The one is a weakness of the heart, the other a calculation of the mind. Caprice is the source of a thousand little disputes, which in themselves are felicities. It ravishes from love all that is lively, gracious and gay. It is a pardonable weakness in woman.

11. During courtship, a prudent girl will not accept the invitation of a man other than her lover to go to a ball, a theatre, or other public place, unless it is by special permission or desire of the latter. She may go with her brother, or with an elderly uncle, without such permission; but even in that case it is better to ask her lover to be one of the party.

12. Rule eleven applies also to a lover. He should never appear in public with any other lady, except his own near relative, without first acquainting his sweetheart of his intention and his reasons therefor. It may happen that common courtesy will compel a gentleman to break this rule. In this case he should write an explanatory note as soon as possible, or go personally to her.

13. In attending balls, neither the lady or the gentleman should dance with a strange partner, except by each other's consent. Relatives and intimate friends may be taken as partners without this formality. If the gentleman introduces a friend to his sweetheart she may consider this introduction as a tacit consent to her dancing with him; and *vice versa* as regards the lady.

14. During courtship, should a gentleman meet one of his male friends at a party, he is not obliged by etiquette to introduce his intended bride to him. He can do as he pleases about it, and should always ask the lady's consent previous to such introduction. The same rule will apply to the lady, though girls are generally proud enough to introduce their lovers, if they think much of them.

15. It is very imprudent for a young couple to travel alone together, even after an engagement has taken place. To prevent gossip, the lady should be accompanied by a female friend.

16. A man should never attempt to take liberties with his sweetheart during courtship—not even after the engagement. Such conduct is mean, and a sign of low breeding. Good and virtuous girls, though they are pained and displeased, do not always resent such treatment. Others of a more energetic and fiery temperament are not afraid to show their displeasure. Every young lady should do so.

17. Where a young lady is shrewish and overbearing towards her lover it will not answer for him to yield too far to her caprices, or she may despise him as pusillanimous. Some girls find fault and quarrel just for the pleasure of a reconciliation. In such a case you are justified in opposing her to a certain extent, but be careful and not go too far, or she may "fly off the handle" in a pet, and make it difficult for you to regain her favor.

18. We read in romances of unhappy lovers falling on their



knees to beseech the favor of their mistresses. This is very romantic in print, but will not do at all in practice. If you get on your knees to your sweetheart, ten to one she will set you down for a fool. Some girls are perhaps silly enough to be flattered in this way, but they are generally weak and vain ones.

19. A young man should never pay particular attention to a girl he does not think of marrying. Male coquettes are humbugs, and the ladies should never tolerate them. If a girl suspects the sincerity of her lover, she should show indifference to him by "being particularly engaged" when he calls. If he is sincere in his attachment he will be all the more anxious for an interview. Treat him with polite indifference, and if he is really in love he will think it about time to come to an understanding with you.

20. To sum up: you should never begin a courtship until you are old enough to marry—until you have the means, or a fair prospect of them, to support a wife—nor until you meet with a girl whose tastes, peculiarities, morals and habits of thinking you admire, and you are perfectly sure that your regard for her is built upon reason, not upon the caprice of the moment.

### Matrimony.

To be happy in the married state is one of the most important things that can engage the attention of both sexes the world over.

What a lamentable fact it is that there are so many matches made that turn out to be the lifetime misery of both parties! This can be avoided or prevented more by persons knowing what kind of a partner would suit them, before getting married.

To be happy in wedlock persons must be properly mated. Every one should know what sort of a person they want for a partner. For instance: a gentleman who is fond of life and amusement, and wants to enjoy everything as much as possible, never should think of marrying a lady who feels the happiest when she is quietly sitting by her fireplace at home, reading some book of science, or fretting about the domestic affairs not being carried on to suit her. What sort of a match would this make?

Neither should a lady with bright auburn hair, and vigorous lively constitution, unite her destiny with a light-haired, pale, sickly, thin-looking man, that prefers to take the world easy in all things. Such a couple can never get along happily.

I will here give some directions by which the disposition of every one, male or female, may be told; and as every one knows what sort of a partner they want, there need not be any more trouble in matrimonial affairs after this.

Persons with red hair are generally the most affectionate, if they marry one who does not neglect them in the little attentions due from the one to the other in married life.

Usually soft languid eyes are evidence of voluptuous dispositions. In females, they are thought a great beauty, and indicate an amiable, heartfelt affection. In men, they show but too well an

effeminate disposition, and very often they indicate a want of fidelity.

A great quantity of hair is a sure sign of amorous feeling, and so too is a voice that is rather soft and husky.

A man should never marry a woman older than himself, it matters not what may be the other considerations; and the woman who marries a man younger than she is must not feel disappointed if he does not prove true to her.

A person with a sharp ridge on the top of the nose is greatly endowed with the faculty of self-defence. A good trait in man, but if in woman, take care for quarrels when you want your shirt buttons sewed on.

Look out for persons who have what is called "hook-billed noses," for, if such be your partner, their rights will certainly be taken care of, for they will do it themselves.

A nose that is thick and broad about midway and rather short, indicates habits of economy—a good thing to observe in a female.

Those having very inquisitive dispositions can be told by the horizontal length of the nose from the lip forwards. A person with this sign large is very inquisitive, asks a great many questions, and takes means to find out the secrets of others.

Those who can keep a secret may be told by the great breadth or expansion of the nostrils.

A person who is suspicious, and will keep a close watch over everything around them, has a long nose from the root downwards, at a right angle with the horizontal length, before spoken of.

One who can and will have feelings of congeniality, has the anterior projection of the centre of the chin right under the two middle teeth.

Those who desire very much to be loved, have the anterior projection of the chin next to the last-named sign, but not so pointed.

The prominence of the chin next to the last named sign, and under the two middle front teeth, indicates a desire to be loved.

The breadth of the fore part of the chin, and under the *dog teeth*, or *canine teeth*, shows a person capable of violent or powerful love, almost sufficient to make them commit suicide if disappointed in love matters.

The breadth of the middle part of the lower jaw, under the two large grinders (teeth), shows a fondness and a great love of physical beauty, or beauty of form and structure.

The breadth of the lower jaw, next to the last named sign, and under the wisdom teeth, indicates *faithful love*.

The action of love on the chin is also frequently shown in the motion and position of the head, a person with congeniality of feelings and a desire to be loved always throws the chin a little forward, with eyes that have an upward look, as if looking at something on the side of the wall, or in the sky. This is their habit, as many call it.

A person capable of violent and ardent love for another generally throws their chin a little sideways. We thus see the signs



spoken of concerning the chin, shown both in male and female sometimes. It is nature which prompts a young man to take an attractive young lady that he is paying attention to by the chin, an act that he feels no desire to do towards one of his own sex. The same is the case with a lady thus endowed with the capacity of loving faithfully and ardently.

The person capable of engaging the mind steadily on any particular object that they may desire, and not being easily led astray by idle fancies, may be told by the length of the chin downwards, say from the edge of the lower lip to the under part of the chin.

The side projection of the process of bone in front of the ear, called the ZIGOMA, extending to the cheek bone, indicates affectation, or the power of assuming the character of another. Such a person will make the unthinking believe they are dead in love with them, eventually leaving the poor wretch to find out his mistake, perhaps, after having lavished his affections on the false one.

Great breadth between the eyes shows the person to be fond of concerted actions and harmony of feelings; such an one likes to carry on something in which several persons are mutually interested and eventually will be benefitted. This is a good trait.

Persons with large eyes have very lively emotions, and make an excellent partner for one fond of like sentiments.

The breadth of the nose indicates whether the person is fond of fine dress or not. When the breadth is great, they will spend many a dollar, though hard-earned it be, for finery, dressing, &c.

One who loves to have everything in nice order, and keep everything clean and in its place, may be told by the fullness of the middle line of the forehead, extending upward about one inch from the root of the nose.

Those who have the angle or outer extremity of the ridge of the eyebrow large, have a lively perception of every thing which contributes to exquisiteness of sensation in all the things of life. Such a person, properly mated, makes the happiest of companions in the married state.

The jutting of the ridge of the eyebrow downwards, indicates one who will battle well with the difficulties of life, and in almost any situation will manage to get along, taking things patiently.

The downward projection of the ridge of the eyebrow, indicates one who will "contend for the last word" amazingly. Such a sign in either man or woman shows a contentious disposition, and they are very likely to make whoever they marry feel the influence of "tongue a plenty."

One with a kind and benevolent disposition may be told by the perpendicular muscular fibres passing down from the middle of the upper part of the forehead to near the root of the nose. The action of these fibres elevates the brow in the centre of the forehead, causing short horizontal wrinkles, which, together with the elevation consequent, indicates the action of these faculties.

One who is full of gratitude, and willing to exercise respect due to each and every person, can be told by the upturning of the hairs

of the right eyebrow, at the inner extremity. The upturning of the hairs of the inner extremity of the left eyebrow, indicates one who will respect their companion in a high degree.

The muscular fibres passing from the top of the forehead to the middle of the eyebrow, causing an elevation of the brow, and the horizontal wrinkles on each side, indicate an enthusiastic person, and one full of hope; the first being indicated on the left side, and hope on the right. These are both excellent traits.

A jealous person may be known by an oblique fullness below the under lip, and has a rather pouting appearance.

A scornful person may be told by the small muscle which draws the integument of the chin upward toward the lip, causing in some persons a short transverse wrinkle between the lip and chin. This was one of the distinguishing features in Oliver Cromwell.

A lady who will be apt "to wear the trousers" can be told by a small muscle, passing from the top of the nose to the skin of the forehead between the eyebrows, raising short transverse wrinkles over the root of the nose. The same sign in a gentleman, too full, shows that he would be rather a master than a husband.

A lady whose front teeth are long and well shaped is generally very affectionate. The same in man shows a kind disposition.

A fullness of the under lip, in either male or female, extending from the angle of the mouth obliquely, and occupying the concavity between the lip and chin, shows a bitterness of temper which no reasonable mind could tolerate.

We think that any person, who has the ordinary powers of observation about them, can form an opinion from what has been here given, so that they need never be mistaken in the disposition of the one who is to be their bosom companion for life, "for happiness or for woe, through life they must go."

### Love Tests.

There is a certain class of ladies who test and try their admirers in every possible way before they yield their love. They consider the conquest of the heart incomplete until they have pierced it through with many sorrows. They make appointments they never mean to keep, feign a displeasure they do not feel, and give utterance to heart-paining words, merely for the sake of being witnesses to suffering. They measure the amount of their lover's devotion by the amount of indignity he will endure. But, if they cannot believe a gentleman's sentiments when seriously and earnestly presented, they are incredulous to a cruelty. If they have good reason to question their lover's sincerity, they ought at once to end all intercourse; but if, without cause, they are incredulous, their hearts were never formed for marriage. Let them turn their ambition to the glory of becoming old maids; in that line of life they may be very useful. It is the essence of love to *confide*; but, if they are so skeptical as not to have faith in the common sincerity of human nature, it would be a shame for them to embitter the life



of any honest man by giving him their unbelieving hearts. When ladies really believe it necessary to employ severe tests, it is anything but a favorable revelation of the state and quality of their own sentiments and principles. The secret consciousness of their own inconstancy leads them to doubt the constancy and integrity of all others, and, instead of having the right of testing others, they ought to be severely tested themselves.

Let it not be understood that no gentleman will submit to these tests; some will allow themselves to be harassed in this way, but they hardly deserve the name of men. No man, conscious of his integrity, will allow himself to be played with; nor will he place himself at her feet a second time, unless, indeed, she desists from her refinement of cruelty.

#### **How a Lady should manage her Beau to make him propose Marriage.**

In some courtships men are so slow and backward in their addresses that it may be necessary for their sweethearts to take measures to make them "toe the mark." This is a delicate matter to manage, and one which most girls naturally shrink from. The usual plan to bring about a proposal of marriage from a backward youth is an appeal from the lady to her father or mother. There is not the least impropriety in the demand of a parent as to the intentions of a suitor. Some young ladies are too sensitive to make such an appeal, and to these we would recommend the following course. When your lover makes his stated visits, turn your conversation to the subject of marriage as often as possible—gossip about your newly married friends and those who are supposed to be engaged. If you know of a positive engagement that exists, state that fact; and, if the couple so engaged have had but a brief courtship, commend their promptness. If the lover is inclined to make a proposal, and is not exceedingly stupid, he will take hints which you can easily give in these conversations. Another plan is to make him jealous, by pretending to receive the attentions of some other gentleman of your acquaintance. But this is more difficult, and is sometimes dangerous. There is no impropriety in a lady's taking any reasonable measures to induce her beau to make his proposal, when he is either backward, slow or bashful.

#### **Courtship of a young Girl with whom you are not personally acquainted.**

A marriageable young man, matrimonially inclined, desires to connect himself with a certain family whose daughter he has perhaps seen, but to whom he is comparatively a stranger. He should first consider the advice heretofore given, relative to position. If that tallies, he is then at liberty to commence legitimate proceedings. First, he requires an introduction; and it would be a great deal pleasanter for both parties if this could be brought about with-

out even a hint or a suspicion of his ultimate wishes. It may tax his ingenuity not a little to plan an introduction under such circumstances, but where there is a will there is generally a way. If the girl has brothers, or near male relatives, it is certainly not a difficult task to throw yourself in their society, and thus, by management, get into the house. If you do not succeed this way, find out who are the female friends of the family, and contrive by indirect means to be introduced through one of them. If both plans fail, see if you cannot concoct some business relations with the father ; or with the mother if she be a widow. As a last resort, request an introduction by some mutual friend. Do not be too anxious, or in too great a hurry. Let all your movements be deliberate. The introduction once accomplished, it will be your object to call upon the lady, or at the house, as often as you can do so without betraying your motives. At each call, you will study her tastes and habits as well as you can. Most girls betray their weaker points by common conversation. If you find the young lady to be reserved and diffident, make your calls as short as possible, for this peculiarity will only wear away by degrees. It need not discourage you that she does not talk fluently at first. Such girls will make up lost time when they become better acquainted. Having "taken an observation" of her likes and dislikes, try if you cannot perform some act or bring about some event that will please her. There are a thousand ways to work upon the feelings a girl without giving her presents, though the latter are all-potent in their proper place. Study carefully the ways and means to please her. Do all this before you hint that you wish to pay her your addresses, and be careful that she does not suspect that such is your object. By these means, carried out carefully and with deliberation, you will win the esteem of any young lady of sense and discretion, and if you are not in too great a hurry to disclose your motive, you may be almost sure of success. After your acquaintance with the young lady has ripened to the proper point, it will scarcely be necessary to give you advice as to how you should broach the subject of matrimony. Yet some men will break down there, when they have conducted the rest of the proceedings admirably. To such we would say, resort to letter writing—though this, as a general rule, is not the thing. If, however, you decide on it, you should candidly confess to the lady your weakness, and beg her forgiveness for your presumption. A still better way would be to leave town on urgent business, and beg leave to correspond with her during your absence. By this means you may legitimately speak your mind, and demand an answer by word of mouth on your return, if she fails to give it to you by letter. To those who are too awkward with their pens to describe their feelings accurately, we shall give more specific directions under the head of "Love Letters," in other pages of this work. We would here caution every young man against "taking a miff" at the refusal of a girl to agree to marry him. It is no proof that she intends to slight him, or that she looks upon him with contempt. Many of the best wives that ever



married husbands have at first rejected them. If you are refused, be not too pertinacious. Ask her forgiveness for presuming to offer yourself—in short, “be humble,” as Mrs. Heap said to her son Uriah. Those lovers who get angry because they are at first rejected do not deserve a wife at all. It is time enough for them to show their temper after the ceremony is performed.

### How to Woo a Widow.

Bashful youths delight in the courtship of widows. This interesting class of females are not the least shy in the presence of the opposite sex. On the contrary, they are extremely docile and agreeable. The elder Weller said to his son: “There never was a nicer woman as a widder, Sammy, than your mother-in-law—a sweet creature she was, and all I can say on her now is, that as she was such an uncommon pleasant widder, its a great pity she ever changed her condition. Beware of the widders! Sammy; in point of coming it over a man, one widder is fully equal to five-and-twenty or’nary women, and I aint quite certain she wouldn’t beat thirty!” This opinion of Mr. Weller’s graphically sets forth three peculiarities—first, that a widow is generally very agreeable; second, that she is not afraid of a beau; and thirdly, that, having had some experience in matrimonial life, she will profit by it whenever she is so fortunate as to catch a second husband. In other words, she will have her own way, and she knows how to get it, too, without quarreling. In making love to a widow you have nothing to do but to answer her questions, and return her caresses. She will remind you when the time has come to “pop the question.” You will get better acquainted with a widow in three visits than you would with an ordinary young girl in as many months. Some rhyming wag says:

“To court a blushing maid, you wheedle, coax and flatter—  
In wooing of a widow, what you do’s no matter!”

As a general thing, a pretty young widow can have her choice of a husband among all the gentlemen of her acquaintance. Marriageable girls, unless their market is made, do not like to see young widows around. They feel their inability to cope with these more experienced sisters in the art of love. In making love to a widow, then, you must first be sure you want her for a wife, as it will not be safe to trust yourself within the pale of her influence if you expect ever to get off heart whole. She will certainly catch you in her toils, if she pleases. She, of course, don’t give you much chance to exhibit those romantic proofs of attachment which young girls delight in, but will discuss the marriage ceremony, and plans for the future, with the same coolness and deliberation as if she were selecting her furniture and household goods. Considering all her peculiarities, the courtship of a widow is a mere formal matter of business. Any man with sufficient nerve to use his own judgment

in the purchase of a horse, may court a widow without trouble, and without advice.

### The Secret of Pleasing a Sweetheart.

*The conduct of an acknowledged lover* should be strictly regulated by manly sense, combined with that tender deference in his bearing towards the lady who has accepted him as shall at once reveal the nature of their intimacy, and make her feel honored by the love she has inspired, without rendering her conspicuous by attentions, sometimes so ill-timed and fussy as to create disgust in her and ridicule in those around. He should consult her wishes, her tastes, her inclinations, and her principles, on all occasions, and gratify them when in his power with graceful readiness. He must be punctual to every engagement, however trivial it may be. Should unforeseen circumstances occur to prevent the promised attendance, an immediate intimation of the hindrance must be sent, to account for absence or delay, the truth of which will bear investigation.

There is also a homage more dear to women than anything else in the world. It is the homage of the eye, that rests upon her with love and admiration in its gaze, felt more than seen by her, yet looked for with a shy though confiding certainty of response to her diffident appeal, that sinks deep into her heart, and wins its love more than she wots of. Words of endearment, "whispered soft and low," caressing words, uttered in good season and with good taste, have likewise wondrous power; this restrained but passionate tenderness falls sweetly on her ear, and woos her to listen, when open undisguised attentions would repel. Addison observes, but with what truth we are not prepared to say, that "men who cherish for women the highest respect, are seldom the most popular with the sex. Men of great assurance, whose tongues are lightly hung, who make words supply the place of ideas, and place compliment in the room of sentiment—are their favorites. A due respect for woman leads to respectful action towards them, and respect is mistaken by them for neglect or want of love"(!) Men critics are not infallible, and in the words just written there is perhaps more pique than justice; at the same time we must admit that sentimental lovers are not always the best wooers. "Bide awhile, my lad," says old Alice Rose, kindly; "young women don't always know their own mind. Thee and her would make a match after my own heart; and the Lord has been very good to me, and I think he'll bring it t' pass. *But don't thee let on as thee cares for her so much. I sometimes think she wearies o' thy looks and thy ways.*"

Her reign is drawing to a close when, from the urgency of the lover's prerogative, the wedding day draws near; for, as it belongs to him to press forward the preparations for his marriage, the tantalizing *privilege of naming the exact day belongs to the bride elect*. That once fixed, the preliminaries are hurried forward. The house is taken, approved, and furnished in all essentials by the gentleman,



while it is the duty of the lady's mother to supply all the house linen, table linen, &c., that the establishment will require.

### Jealousy.

Jealousy is something certain to afflict the mind of every one, more or less, in this life, and the more a person is troubled with it the more misery he has to bear, for it is an exceedingly foolish thing, and often makes one lose their better senses, and it is introduced here for the purpose of helping those thus afflicted to banish it from their minds.

Most certainly jealousy is, of all the mind's diseases, the one calculated to cause the most trouble. The most pious man who thinks he has just grounds for his jealousy, can find an excuse for committing acts the most horrible to contemplate; for he says within himself, "If my own territory has been invaded, who but myself can come to the rescue? and now, live or die, I will contend for my rights; for the world will not condemn me in doing what is my duty to myself and those who should be true to me alone."

Thus it is he finds relief in the most trying situation. If he kills, he says that it is nothing more than the world expects of me. Now, in love, men embellish their mistresses with every perfection, of course! Every effort of the imagination is rewarded by a moment of delight and pleasure, but let jealousy once invade the premises, every power of the soul, mind and body remains but only to produce an effect directly to the contrary. Instead of perfection, thought of previously, when jealous the most opposite effect is experienced. The very thought of having bestowed one single attention on the object of our love only serves as so many poisoned daggers piercing the inmost soul.

The great point is, how to get to rid of this unhappy state of things.

Now, dear friend, let me say to you, that there is no cause for making oneself so miserable about things comparatively trifling; yes, we say trifling, for by taking our advice you will never again be troubled with jealousy. We will suppose, then, that it is a kind-hearted young man and an affectionate young lady who love each other; well, in the course of time, another young man takes a fancy to this same young lady; he is worthy, sober, industrious, and there is no cause why he should not be respected, although not a lover, for he may not know the young lady loves any one else. But the other young man becomes jealous, because of the respect shown to what he takes for a rival. He begins to show it in his actions, his conversation, and every thing else; the young lady sees this, and knowing he has no cause to be jealous, because she loves him, she intends in her own mind to "carry on the joke," and thus learn him a lesson.

Now, you may well suppose, that in a short time matters are in a nice fix among all hands. The young lady finds she has carried the joke too far, the lover feels that his case is a hopeless one, the

other young man enjoys the fun amazingly, while the old people are puzzled to death to know what is the matter.

Before a great while these two young men may be at the point of fighting a duel about the matter, and, in the general fuss, the young lady also suffers no little, and, as a general thing, she misses both chances.

All this trouble has been caused by that "green-eyed monster," jealousy, and might easily have been avoided.

The course to be pursued very often would be if your rival, or one you considered such, is inferior to you in merit, is to leave the field to him, "give him rope enough and he will be certain to hang himself." Keep quiet, and never let him know you think any thing of the young lady, for, if he finds out that you love her, he will always have the advantage of you afterwards.

If you have been rather intimate with any person, that is, having been long acquainted and well known to each other, and if you have a love for one another, and jealousy should begin afterwards, it will become necessary to show some degree of indifference, or apparent indifference, but real constancy; for it is a well-recognized fact that most females, offended by a lover, will attach themselves to another man whom their lover envies, for the purpose of learning him that they love a short lesson of common sense, and thus the joke, as it began, ends in reality, and the woman changes her love for this last man. Never let it be known that you are jealous, male or female, it is horrible!

When a woman becomes jealous, she makes herself ridiculous, in spite of herself; for she has the appearance of running after a man that she loves, which is apt to make an unfavorable impression on any mind, but very apt to create in her lover's imagination supreme disgust. After all though, a degree of jealousy might not be very bad, for when a lover becomes jealous of us we may be convinced that there is some real love, for no jealousy can exist in such cases without love, and no love without some jealousy. In spite of all that can be said, women will be jealous, more or less, for it is their nature to love.

In regard to jealousy in the married state, nothing is more deplorable. Never suffer your mind to become imbued thus until you have proof positive, for once imagine a thing, and you as good as make it a fact. Then do not, for pity's sake, become jealous from mere supposition, for it is bad enough when we have undoubted proof.

#### **What the Gentleman should observe during Courtship.**

It would be as well, also, for the young suitor, on his part, during the first few weeks of his courtship, to observe the conduct and estimation of the young lady in her own family, as well as amongst the friends who form the society of her home. We are speaking, of course, of parties belonging to the middle classes of life, as they must always form the majority. If the young lady be attentive to



her duties, kind, and of enduring patience to her younger brothers and sisters, of a temper not easily ruffled, and with a mind rather seeking to step forward to hope and brightness than looking backwards always to doubt and darkness, and forward only to anticipate evil; if her pleasures and enjoyments be those which centre in home, her works those of benevolence, peace, good-will, and charity—then let him not hesitate, but at once hasten to enshrine such a pearl beyond all price in the casket of his affections. If, however, he find that he has been attracted by the tricky affectation and heartless buzzing of a flirt; if she gives smiles to all and a heart to none; if she be of uneven temper, easily provoked, and slow to be appeased; fond of dress and eager for admiration; ecstatic in trifles and enthusiastic about nonsense; firm in what is frivolous and weak and wavering in duties; if the holiness of religion do not hover like a sanctifying dove ever over her head; if she be petulant to her friends, pert to her equals, saucy to her parents, insolent to her superiors, and overbearing to her inferiors; if pride and not meekness, a boasting spirit and not gentleness, vanity and not humility, affectation and not candor, be her characteristics; if she be sudden to friendship and quick to quarrelling; gaudy rather than neat in dress; and sharp rather than quiet in manner; then we counsel the young gentleman to retire as speedily, but as politely as possible, from his new acquaintanceship; nor dread that the lady's friends—who know her better than he can do—will seek the knowledge of his reasons for a quick departure.

#### Facts, Faults, and Fancies.

As long as people love, they have the power of exercising pardon.

In the course of romantic love and flights of fancy, nothing is more sweet than a reconciliation between two lovers who have once had a misunderstanding. It gives the attractions and freshness of novelty to the ideas and sensations.

That love which endures the longest is between two persons who have many little quarrels. Such is the very nature of true love, that it leaves the human mind in that peculiarly excited condition which leads to an outburst of the superabundant pent-up feelings which must be construed into a "lover's quarrel." To those who are inexperienced in such matters, allow me to say that, if you break off too suddenly on account of a little quarrel from those you love, you may leave the fairest flower to wither in misery for the want of that attention which you alone can give.

The happiest couple that I ever knew were those of our intimate acquaintance, who loved and quarreled for six years, and at last married, after which they laughed at their former folly. When they had one of those little "spats," they would separate very punky, vowing an everlasting farewell, but before a week had passed they were in each other's arms confessing, both at once, that they were wrong.

It is generally admitted that the man must make at least three-fourths of the advances, after a quarrel, but still it is also right for the lady, as much as she can, to prepare the way for such advances. She must appear dignified, but not proud and haughty, cold and reserved, for in that case she would kill every thought of an advance from the man.

Then, again, she must not expect a gentleman to confess too much, or make himself too humble; for, even if done, should the couple ever get married, it might lead to some very unpleasant matters during an entire lifetime.

The gentleman must bear in mind never to compromise his feelings too far. No matter how much you love a woman, never do that which you consider lowering yourself, to appease a woman's wrath. If either party has done wrong, let them admit it frankly, and ask pardon in a gentle way, but nothing more.

If either lady or gentleman has been keeping the company of one they looked upon as a lover, and they should find out some good reason why such intimacy should cease, it matters not how much the parties may love each other, this love, friendship and intimacy must cease, for no one is a fit subject to associate with in this capacity who would not be fit for a husband or wife; one that you could not consistently marry, you should not, upon any consideration, love.

Then this separation must be final, it must be sudden. No one need ever think of breaking off gradually—it cannot be done. This separation must not be deferred; it is cowardice to suffer one's feelings, under any circumstances, to get the upper hand of their better judgment.

This tampering along, trying to break off gradually, is what causes so many "runaway matches."

Nothing has a better tendency towards breaking off such love than absence, change of scenery, or another attachment, but be certain that this second attachment be a worthy one. You must not even think of seeing your former lover as a friend; a separation is the only remedy for a deeply injured heart, or one that knows it can never unite with the once adored object of its affections.

How many foolish people, yes, very foolish people in the world, who talk so much about first love, its charms, its romance, and its beauties; those who have once been deceived though—and who find in a second or third love all the charms, the ideality, yes, and much more happiness than in a first love—that person is, of all others, the most happy, and is most likely to give happiness to others, for they have seen the good and bad of both.

Do not suffer this notion of first love to go beyond the bounds of reason and common sense; it has made many an one miserable for life.



### Handkerchief Flirtations.

"The handkerchief! the handkerchief!" ejaculated the jealous Moor, and killed his loving Desdemona because she failed to respond.

Fans and flowers have each their language, and why not handkerchiefs? No reason having been discovered, it has transpired that handkerchief flirtations are rapidly coming into fashion. As yet the "code of signals" is confined to a select few, but we do not intend that they shall enjoy the monopoly any longer, and accordingly publish the key.

It may be used at the opera, theatre, balls, and such places, but never in church; and we hope that this restriction will be observed, and are quite sure that it won't.

Drawing across the lips .....	<i>Desirous of an acquaintance.</i>
Drawing across the eyes .....	<i>I am sorry.</i>
Taking it by the centre .....	<i>You are too willing.</i>
Dropping .....	<i>We will be friends.</i>
Twirling in both hands .....	<i>Indifference.</i>
Drawing it across the cheek .....	<i>I love you.</i>
Drawing it through the hands .....	<i>I hate you.</i>
Letting it rest on the right cheek .....	<i>Yes.</i>
Letting it rest on the left cheek .....	<i>No.</i>
Twirling it in the left hand .....	<i>I wish to be rid of you.</i>
Twirling it in the right hand .....	<i>I love another.</i>
Folding it .....	<i>I wish to speak with you.</i>
Drawing it across the forehead .....	<i>We are watched.</i>
Over the shoulder .....	<i>Follow me.</i>
Opposite corners in both hands .....	<i>Wait for me.</i>
Placing it on the right ear .....	<i>You have changed.</i>
Letting it remain on the eyes .....	<i>You are cruel.</i>
Winding around the forefinger .....	<i>I am engaged.</i>
Winding around the third finger .....	<i>I am married.</i>
Putting it in the pocket .....	<i>No more at present.</i>

### Fan Flirtations.

Carrying in right hand in front of face .....	<i>Follow me.</i>
Carrying in left hand .....	<i>Desirous of an acquaintance.</i>
Placing it on the right ear .....	<i>You have changed.</i>
Twirling it in left hand .....	<i>I wish to get rid of you.</i>
Drawing across forehead .....	<i>We are watched.</i>
Carrying in right hand .....	<i>You are too willing.</i>
Drawing through the hand .....	<i>I hate you.</i>
Twirling in right hand .....	<i>I love another.</i>
Drawing across the cheek .....	<i>I love you.</i>
Closing it .....	<i>I wish to speak to you.</i>
Drawing across the eye .....	<i>I am sorry.</i>

Letting it rest on right cheek.....	<i>Yes.</i>
Letting it rest on left cheek.....	<i>No.</i>
Open and shut.....	<i>You are cruel.</i>
Dropping.....	<i>We will be friends.</i>
Fanning slow.....	<i>I am married.</i>
Fanning fast.....	<i>I am engaged.</i>
With handle to lips.....	<i>Kiss me.</i>
Shut.....	<i>You have changed.</i>
Open wide.....	<i>Wait for me.</i>

### Parasol Flirtations.

Carrying elevated in left hand.....	<i>Desiring acquaintance.</i>
Carrying elevated in right hand.....	<i>You are too willing.</i>
Carrying closed in left hand.....	<i>Meet on the first crossing.</i>
Carrying closed in right hand, by your side.....	<i>Follow me.</i>
Swinging to and fro by the handle on left side.....	<i>Engaged.</i>
Swinging to and fro by the handle on right side.....	<i>Married.</i>
Striking it on the hand.....	<i>I am very much displeased.</i>
Tapping the chin gently.....	<i>I am in love with another.</i>
Using it as a fan.....	<i>Introduce me to your company.</i>
Twirling it around.....	<i>Be careful! we are watched.</i>
Carrying over right shoulder.....	<i>You can speak to me.</i>
Carrying over left shoulder.....	<i>You are too cruel.</i>
Carrying in front of you.....	<i>No more at present.</i>
Closing it up.....	<i>I wish to speak to you, love.</i>
Folding up.....	<i>Get rid of your company.</i>
Letting it rest on right cheek.....	<i>Yes.</i>
Letting it rest on left cheek.....	<i>No.</i>
With handle to lips.....	<i>Kiss me.</i>
End of tips to lips.....	<i>Do you love me?</i>
Dropping it.....	<i>I love you.</i>

### Hat Flirtations.

Carrying it in the right hand.....	<i>Desirous of an acquaintance.</i>
Carrying it in the left hand.....	<i>I hate you.</i>
Running the finger around the crown.....	<i>I love you.</i>
Running the hand around the rim.....	<i>I hate you.</i>
To wear on the right side of the head.....	<i>No.</i>
To wear on the left side of the head.....	<i>Yes.</i>
To wear on the back of the head.....	<i>I wish to speak to you.</i>
To incline toward the nose.....	<i>We are watched.</i>
Putting it behind you.....	<i>I am married.</i>
Putting it in front of you.....	<i>I am single.</i>
Carrying it in the hand by the crown.....	<i>Follow me.</i>
Putting it under the right arm.....	<i>Wait for me.</i>
Putting it under the left arm.....	<i>I will be at the gate at 8 p. m.</i>
Touching the rim to the lips.....	<i>Does he accompany you.</i>
Putting the hat on the head straight.....	<i>All for the present.</i>



## Glove Flirtations.

Holding with tips downward.....	<i>I wish to be acquainted.</i>
Twirling around the fingers.....	<i>Be careful, we are watched.</i>
Right hand with the naked thumb exposed .....	<i>Kiss me.</i>
Left hand with naked thumb exposed.....	<i>Do you love me.</i>
Using them as a fan.....	<i>Introduce me to your company.</i>
Smoothing them out gently.....	<i>I wish I were with you.</i>
Holding them loose in the left hand.....	<i>I am satisfied.</i>
Holding them loose in the right hand.....	<i>Be contented.</i>
Biting the tips.....	<i>I wish to be rid of you very soon.</i>
Folding up carefully .....	<i>Get rid of your company.</i>
Striking them over the hand .....	<i>I am displeased.</i>
Drawing half way on left hand.....	<i>Indifference.</i>
Clenching them (rolled up) in right hand.....	<i>No.</i>
Striking them over the shoulder.....	<i>Follow me.</i>
Tossing them up gently .....	<i>I am engaged.</i>
Turning them inside out .....	<i>I hate you.</i>
Dropping both of them.....	<i>I love you.</i>
Tapping the chin.....	<i>I love another.</i>
Putting them away.....	<i>I'm vexed.</i>
Dropping one of them .....	<i>Yes.</i>

## Love's Telegraph.

If a gentleman wants a wife, he wears a ring on the *first* finger of the left hand ; if he is engaged, he wears it on the *second* finger ; if married, on the *third* ; and on the fourth if he never intends to be married. When a lady is not engaged, she wears a hoop or diamond on her *first* finger ; if engaged, on the *second* ; if married, on the *third* ; and on the fourth if she intends to die unmarried. When a gentleman presents a fan, flower or trinket to a lady with the *left* hand, this on his part is an overture of regard ; should she receive it with the *left* hand, it is considered as an acceptance of his esteem ; but if with the *right* hand, it is a refusal of the offer. Thus, by a few simple tokens explained by rule, the passion of love is expressed ; and, through the medium of the telegraph, the most timid and diffident man may, without difficulty, communicate his sentiments of regard to a lady, and, in case his offer should be refused, avoid experiencing the mortification of an explicit refusal.

## "Popping the Question."

In this momentous affair we witness the timid embarrassment of the young girl and the modest assurance of her lover. We see them surrounded with all the delicate hues of true love ; and while the man is looking at her with glances which seek to reach her very inmost soul, she, trembling, confused, her face bearing a delicate blush, stands uncertain between hope and fear, agitated by a

sentiment which seems to be a mixture of pleasure, anxiety and pain inexpressible.

In making a declaration of love, it should be done passionately; and, above all things, it must be truthful. In the voice, the gestures, and in short every action of a man who is in love, there is a peculiar attraction and characteristics which, although they might seem ridiculous to those disinterested, yet all the art in the world has never yet learned how to imitate; and the simplest young girl seems endowed by nature with what may be termed a delicacy, a judgment and tact, that prevent her ever mistaking for the expression of a true love the false pretensions of those actuated by unholy passion without love.

When it becomes necessary to "pop the question" by letter, as is sometimes the case, owing to unavoidable circumstances, let every thing be done in the simplest manner, not filling up page after page with high-flown words, or quotations from celebrated poets or authors. Say what you have to say in the fewest words, and by all means adhere to truthful simplicity. Tell the honest feelings of your heart in your own language, and rest assured it will have the better effect.

There are certain young men in the world who make love to every one they meet, whether a young girl, a charming widow, or an ugly old maid. Young ladies, never think of mating such a fellow—he will become tired of you in less than three months after marriage.

Again, there are young ladies to be found who try to make every young man they meet fall in love with them, so as to have the fun of "giving him a kicking." My dear young female friends, look out for such quicksands, or you will be engulfed in misery.

### Twenty Ways of Popping the Question.

As this is an important subject, I have thought proper to give further instructions as to the proper way of conducting the process.

There is nothing more appalling to a modest and sensitive young man than asking the girl he loves to marry him; and there are few who do not find their moral courage tasked to the utmost. Many a man who would lead a forlorn hope, mount a breach, and "seek the bubble reputation e'en in the cannon's mouth," tremble at the idea of asking a woman a question which is to decide his fate. Ladies may congratulate themselves that nature and custom have made them the responding party.

In a matter which men have always found so terrible, yet which, in one way or other, they have always contrived in some awkward way to accomplish, it is not easy to give instructions suited to every emergency.

A man naturally conforms to the disposition of a woman he admires. If she be serious, he will approach the awful subject with due solemnity—if gay and lively, he will make it an excellent joke



—if softly sentimental, he must woo her in a strain of high-wrought romance—if severely practical, he must rely upon straight-forward common sense.

There is one maxim of universal application: Never lose an opportunity. What can a woman think of a lover who neglects one? Women cannot make direct advances, but they use infinite tact in giving men occasions to make them. In every case it is fair to presume that, when a woman gives a man an opportunity, she expects him to improve it; and though he may tremble, and feel his pulses throbbing and tingling through every limb—though his heart is filling up his throat, and his tongue cleaves to the roof of his mouth, yet the awful question must be asked—the fearful task accomplished.

In the country, the lover is taking a romantic walk by moonlight with the lady of his love—talks of the beautiful scenery, the harmony of nature, and exclaims, “Ah! Julia, how happy would existence prove, if I always had such a companion!”

“My dearest Julia, be mine forever!”

This is a settler, and the answer, ever so inaudible, “makes or undoes him quite.”

“Take pity on a forlorn bachelor,” says another, in a manner which may be either jest or earnest, “marry me at once, and put me out of my misery.”

“With all my heart, whenever you are ready,” replies the laughing fair one. A joke carried thus far is easily made earnest.

A point is often carried by taking a thing for granted. A gentleman who has been paying attentions to a lady says, “Well, Mary, when is the happy day?” “What day, pray?” she asks, with a conscious blush.

“Why, everybody knows that we are going to get married, and it might as well be one time as the other; so, when shall it be?”

Cornered in this fashion, there is no retreat.

“Jane, I love you! Will you marry me?” would be somewhat abrupt, and a simple, frankly given, “Yes!” would be short and sweet for an answer.

“Ellen, one word from you would make me the happiest man in the universe!”

“I should be cruel not to speak it, then, unless it is a very hard one.”

“It is a word of three letters, and answers the question, Will you have me?”

The lady, of course, says Yes, unless she happen to prefer a word of only two letters, and answers No.

And so this interesting and terrible process in practice, simple as it is in theory, is varied in a hundred ways, according to circumstances and the various dispositions.

One timid gentleman asks, “Have you any objection to change your name?” and follows this with another, which clenches its significance, “How would mine suit you?”

Another asks, "Will you tell me what I most wish to know?"

"Yes, if I can."

"The happy day when we shall be married?"

"Another says, 'My Eliza, we must do what all the world evidently expects we shall.'"

"All the world is very impertinent."

"I know it—but it can't be helped. When shall I tell the parson to be ready!"

As a general rule, a gentleman need never be refused. Every woman, except a heartless coquette, can easily discourage a man that she does not intend to marry before matters come to the point of a declaration. It is very true that some men are wofully blinded in this thing of love-making, and do not get their eyes open until they get "kicked."

When a gentleman has made himself acquainted with a lady, and finds her a sensible one to make love to, he should consider his chances of success, and then, if he finds no insurmountable barrier between himself and the possession of the lady, such as her being free from other engagements, he should make up his mind for a refusal; but, at the same time, put on the arm of confidence, and go forth to the battle like a soldier.

The following plan is about as good as any to pursue in such a case, being only partially acquainted with the lady. You must, then, familiarize yourself more with her, and, having perceived that you are not actually an object of ridicule or aversion, you should seek a suitable time, and commence on her, something to this effect: "I have come, fair lady, to take, perhaps, a final leave of you." Of course the lady will ask the reason, when you can tell her in the most touching strain you are master of, thus: "Because, fair one, I find that your society has become so dear to me that my only hope of escape is to forever leave you, to save myself from many an hour's misery, for I could not scarcely hope that you would crown my efforts with success, being, as I am, almost a stranger."

Finding herself thus addressed by one who speaks so candidly, she will give you a fair answer. If she favors your suit, she will blush, and perhaps be somewhat agitated, and say that she is unprepared at once to give you an answer. If so, you may consider you are on the right track, and, if you go on, you are sure of your game; but, if she takes it coolly, and says she would be happy at any time to see you as a "*friend*," the best course for you is to let everything go and amuse yourself in some other way. Occasionally ladies will change their minds, but the first impression in these matters generally settle things one way or the other.

This advice will be valuable to those who suddenly fall in love and wish to find out what their chances of success are; for this off-hand way of doing will soon settle the question.

I do hate this way that some young men have of being so bashful, so "chicken-hearted," that they can't "pop the question." It is just what makes old bachelors and old maids, and I heartily



wish we had a law to tax all such, at least twenty-five dollars a year, until they get a wife; and also the same for all "*old maids*" who have refused "*two good chances!*" The tax thus raised to go for the support of widows and orphans.

### Long and Short Courtships.

As a general rule, it is not desirable that the courtship should be of very long duration. A long courtship very often ends in some personal or relative dispute, and Cupid in his wanderings fails to lead the pair to the altar of Hymen. But a courtship of very short continuance is equally objectionable. Where sufficient time is not permitted to elapse between the first introduction, the declaration of love, and the wedding day, happiness but seldom results. The wisdom of a nation is preserved in its proverbs, and proverbial philosophy has taught that to marry in haste is to repent at leisure. A moderate time is from twelve to eighteen months. This, of course, greatly depends on other circumstances, but the length of courtship should not be unnecessarily extended. It is this sort of fashion, namely, that of an interminable wooing, that gave occasion to the young man's objection to matrimony, when the same was urged upon him by his lady-love. "My dear," said he, "if we were married, I don't know where I could spend my evenings!" Many a young lady becomes weary of the tedious delay of her suitor, and many an anxious suitor grows weary of the unnecessary scruples of his fair one, and in both instances it is probably owing to that fear of the world, and what the world will say, that so perplexes and disturbs what we call, *par excellence*, society.

There is a story told of a young couple who began to court at an early age, who went on courting when they were out of their teens; the gentleman ventured to propose a settlement, but was begged to wait a short time longer, and so he went on waiting, and youth departed, and the pledged couple, still courting, began occasionally to notice a grey hair, or an unmistakeable wrinkle, but still went on as of old, till more than half a century had passed; in a word, they courted all their lives and lived to be old, but never ventured to step over the magic circle of the plain gold ring. There are few who would tolerate such a courtship as this.

Where the acquaintance has been an old one, and the lovers have known each other from childhood, the circumstances of the case are entirely changed. There is then but little to learn. It is in those cases where a previous knowledge of each other has not been obtained—where the habits and principles are but little understood, that caution is so much required. A fair face and a fine figure are not the best credentials. Yet are they the most obvious and the most likely to excite admiration. Time is required to find out what is within the beautiful exterior.

A courtship of a moderate length is also best for both parties, with regard to their friends and the society in which they move. A sudden, hasty wedding, excites a thousand strange surmises,



while a long and weary courtship becomes the object of remark. It is best, then, to let people know that an engagement has been made, that the hand of the lady has been won, and that she must now be regarded as pledged to her lover. This, while it delivers the lady from all the assiduities of others who may be seeking her favor, places her future husband in a new position, and enables him to act towards her as he could not do without the acknowledgment had been made. Placed as we are in society, the forms of society should be regarded. Its opinion is to be consulted, not foolishly, but wisely, not blindly, but properly, and in the end we are certain to find the advantages which arise from such a mode of procedure. To taboo, to regard it as if it was not, is impolitic, as well as absurd, and they who wilfully offend against its regulations deserve the penalty they are sure to receive.

#### Remarks as to a Lady's Behavior to an Accepted Lover.

A sincere attachment will show itself by a desire to avoid display. Genuine love is ever shy, modest and retiring. It is by far the most desirable plan to follow the dictates of nature in this respect. Should you appear very often in public with your lover, you will have to endure the effects of the spirit of detraction which is prevalent in the world. Lovers generally attract more than ordinary attention, and they are frequently the theme of conversation and criticism. There are young ladies who take pleasure in promenading with their lovers on every available occasion. This is not in strict accordance with the etiquette of good breeding. Some young ladies have lost their lovers by too freely exhibiting them.

The attentions of a lady should be equally dispensed when in the company of gentlemen. When you confine your attentions to one, you prove not solely your own weakness, but you convince others of your attachment to him. Regulate your conduct and manners so that you may not give them cause to judge of your attachment. You should never deviate from that strict line of demarkation which is pointed out by the etiquette of well-bred courtship. It is both indelicate and offensive, and discovers the weakness of a lady's heart, to court in society. Such conduct generally carries its own punishment with it; and no lady of sense or delicacy would allow such a breach of etiquette. Should the weakness of your lover betray him into such indiscretions as to make both you and himself ridiculous in company, strongly remonstrate with him on the impropriety of his conduct.

Your disapproval of the part he has acted should be given to him in calm and persuasive language, and it will have the effect of increasing his esteem for you. You should by no means neglect all the little courtesies and polite attentions of gentlemen on account of your being engaged to another. This would be a breach of true politeness, and would betray to others your engagement, which it should ever be your endeavor to avoid. Yet, whilst you accept their



attentions, evince by your prudent demeanor that you are aware to what length such ceremonies should be carried by them and how far you ought to accept them.

Never betray into too great a freedom. Your lover expects and certainly has a right to a preference in your attentions ; and, if you be too lavish of them, you expose yourself to the imputation of being a flirt. Be very careful how far you exercise your humor in passing jokes or sallies of wit upon your lover. This conduct discovers a levity of character which does not altogether consist with pure and devoted attachment. You can judge how far such conduct on his part would irritate your feelings, therefore you ought ever to have a tender regard for the feelings of your lover.

#### Conduct of a Suitor towards the Parents of the Young Lady before Marriage.

It behooves every young gentlemen to remember, when he has arrived at this point of courtship, and is admitted into the family as the suitor (for he is yet no more) of a daughter, that he is by no means to consider himself as doing the family a favor. The contrary is the case ; especially where the daughter is a lovable person, and to such only, we presume, would he offer the enormous sacrifice of himself !

In a lady, the natural desire of occupying her position as head of a household, and living independent of the lectures (it may be) of mamma, and the jokes of brothers and sisters, cousins and acquaintances, may render occasionally even an ineligible match with an otherwise unpleasant person a matter to be listened to. But let us ask our vain young gentleman, "For what have we, as a parent, to thank you for your coming a stranger into our house, and plucking from our garden the flower that we have reared with so much tender care ? Our daughter, after many years' nurture and anxious education, is now of an age to become our companion, our delight and the solace, it may be, of our widowed hopes. Ought we, then, to be so much obliged to you for coming to take her from us ?" The conduct of the young gentleman, therefore, should be marked by a delicate respect towards the parents of the lady whom he is addressing, as if deprecatory of their very natural jealousy, and desirous to prove himself worthy of the treasure of which he is about to deprive them.

#### Remarks as to a Young Lady's Refusal.

After a lady has carefully considered an offer made her in apparent good faith by a suitor, and she has determined to decline his further attentions, it behooves her to couch her answer in the most respectful and delicate manner, as the offer is a proof on his part of the high estimate which he has placed upon the lady's personal charms or mental gifts and accomplishments.

Therefore, if she have no love for him, she ought at least to

evinced a tender regard for his feelings; and, in the event of her being previously engaged, should at once acquaint him with the fact. No right-minded man would desire to persist in a suit when he well knew that the object of his admiration had already disposed of her heart.

When a gentleman makes an offer of his hand by letter, the letter must be answered, and certainly not returned should the answer be a refusal; unless, indeed, when from a previous repulse, or some other particular and special circumstances, such an offer may be regarded by the lady or her relatives as presumptuous and intrusive.

Under such circumstances, the letter may be placed by the lady in the hands of her parents or guardians, to be dealt with by them as they may deem most advisable.

No woman of proper feeling would regard her rejection of an offer of marriage from a worthy man as a matter of triumph; her feeling on such an occasion should be one of regretful sympathy with him for the pain she is unavoidably compelled to inflict.

Nor should a rejection be unaccompanied with some degree of self-examination on her part, to discern whether any lightness of demeanor or tendency to flirtation may have given rise to a false hope of her favoring his suit.

At all events no lady should ever treat the man who has so honored her with the slightest disrespect or frivolous disregard, nor ever unfeelingly parade a more favored suitor before one whom she has refused.

#### Remarks as to a Gentleman's Behavior when his Addresses are Rejected.

However galling it may at first be to a gentleman's self-love to find that the lady upon whom he has fixed his affections declines to reciprocate, he should as calmly as possible survey the whole situation, and consider that the lady may have many reasons, not obvious to him, which may have influenced her mind, and quite justified her in her adverse resolution.

Should circumstances lead him to believe that the lady is not entirely disinclined to favor his suit at some future time, or under somewhat different circumstances, he should by unobtrusive attentions and small gallantries, as well as by general good behavior, try to win her to reconsider her avowed disinclination.

But, in the case of avowed or evident preference for another, it becomes imperative upon him as a gentleman to withdraw at once, and so relieve the lady of any obstacle that his presence or pretensions may occasion to the furtherance of her obvious wishes.

A pertinacious continuance of his attentions, on the part of one who has been distinctly rejected, is an insult deserving of the severest reprobation.

Although the weakness of her sex, which ought to be her protection, frequently prevents a woman from forcibly breaking off



an acquaintance thus annoyingly forced upon her, she rarely fails to resent such impertinence by that sharpest of woman's weapons, a keen-edged but courteous ridicule, which few men can bear up against.

### The Etiquette of an Engagement.

We must now regard our young pair of lovers as engaged, and bound together in that approximation towards marriage which, in the ancient Christian church, was considered in a very sacred light, inferior only to, and forming, in fact, a part of marriage itself—the Betrothment.

#### CONDUCT OF THE PARTIES WHEN ENGAGED.

The gentleman's conduct should be marked by gallantry, and a *dévouement* easily felt and understood, but difficult to be explained; that of the lady, by delicacy. Though looking for his devotion to herself, she should not at the same time pout and show airs or be displeased at his showing such attention to other ladies as she, in her turn, would not hesitate to receive from other gentlemen.

In the behavior of a gentleman towards his betrothed in public, little difference should be perceptible from his conduct to other ladies, except in those minute attentions which none but those who love can understand or appreciate; for love makes us universally attentive to every motion, thought or impulse of the one loved object.

In private, the slightest approach to familiarity must be avoided, as it will always be resented by a woman who deserves to be a wife. The lady's honor is now in her lover's hands, and he should remember that he is dealing with his future wife; moreover, it is the first feeling of a gentleman never to take advantage of those who trust him, and always to protect the weak.

#### THE PRIVILEGE OF A LOVER DURING BETROTHAL.

It is the privilege of the lover during this happy period, as it is also his duty, to give advice to the fair one, who now implicitly confides in him. If he sees a fault—if there be a failing he would wish to have corrected—now is the time. He will find a ready listener, and any impulse given by him will now be blindly followed. After marriage it may be too late, for advice on trivial points of conduct may not improbably be then resented as unnecessary interference; now the fair and loving creature melts like pliant wax in his hands, and loves to mould herself to his will.

#### CONDUCT OF THE LADY DURING HER BETROTHAL.

A lady is not expected to retire altogether from society on her engagement, nor to separate herself from the polite attentions and courtesies of other gentlemen; but she must, at the same time, so accept them, and with such a prudent reserve, as to intimate that

they are received as mere acts of ordinary kindness and common politeness—nothing more. In all places of public amusement—balls, the opera, &c.—to be seen with another cavalier in close attendance would expose her to the odious imputation of flirtation. She will also take pains to observe the taste of her lover in regard to her own dress, for, curiously enough, men have their feelings, taste and wishes on such apparent trifles. She will observe much delicacy in regard to dress, and avoid too great a display of charms; young gentlemen are jealous of observation under such circumstances. It is a mistake on the lady's part to think they will be pleased by the admiration expressed by others towards the object of their passion; she is not yet quite their own, and may be lost. On the contrary, we hardly ever remember a young lover who, if his feelings could have been rightly interpreted even by himself, would not gladly have run away with his love, and hid her with himself in some far-off lovely "Island of the Blest."

#### CONDUCT OF THE GENTLEMAN TOWARDS THE FAMILY OF HIS BETROTHED.

The lover, having now secured his position, should take care that his visits are not too frequent, so as to be inconvenient to the family. He should accommodate himself to the hours most agreeable to their wishes, and should, moreover, ever be ready and attentive to the slightest desire of the lady or her parents. Attention and politeness to the lady's mother are very necessary, and will conciliate to him many advantages in his present position. He must not presume to take his stand, thus prematurely, as a member of the family, nor affect that exceeding intimacy which leads to such painful results should any termination or disruption of the engagement, from some unexpected cause, take place. His conduct should be such as gradually to win to himself the affection of all the family, and to make them welcome and desire his presence, rather than regard him as an intruder.

#### Who should, and who should not Marry.

Let it be understood that when a man goes in for hunting a wife as a sort of business matter, and with the chief intention of becoming a domestic man, and making himself comfortable, he should first examine himself, to see what sort of a woman he wants for a wife. First, let him make up his mind as to what sort of a disposition he would like in a wife, and then he is ready for action.

A covetous man must avoid marrying a girl who is of a generous nature, for every time she spent a little money, her husband would be almost crazy. A man of generous disposition, however, should obtain a frugal wife, for she will think the more of him, and honor him, but at the same time manage to take care of his loose change, that might otherwise be spent very foolishly.

A man of phlegmatic or sluggish temperament, should be care-



ful how he marries a warm and buoyant woman, for if a woman of this nature does not feel that her affections are fully returned, nothing but the strictest sense of morality will prevent her from seeking a response in another bosom.

Neither should a man of amorous organization unite with a cold, unexcitable woman, for it too often happens that he, being frequently repulsed, proves untrue to his wife.

A jealous man should never marry an exceedingly beautiful woman, for every time any person looked at her he would be on the point of "going into fits."

Very little men constantly try to unite themselves with large women, but, in so doing, they go into a kind of small purgatory on earth, for their better halves (or two-thirds rather), only make dolls of them, dashing them about as it may suit their fancy. This must be very trying to the poor men, for of all others the little men try to use the most authority in their families. Little men, learn better sense, and try to find wives at least only of middling size.

A very tall man should never marry a very short woman; they scarcely ever live happily together for any length of time before the husband has a kind of contempt for her, although he may not give any public expression of it. Let there be a reasonable gradation.

A working man should never unite with a woman who was once "in very fine circumstances," who has been used to fashionable life. She will always be throwing it into her husband's face, that she "was once in a better condition than he ever can make for her."

Let every man get a wife whose education, tastes and circumstances correspond to his own, if he would live happy in after life.

Females may learn, from what has been already said, how to make their cue; but it is only right to say, that if a female has any little fault or defect, she should always let it be known before marrying a man—not until she has secured his affections, however. If she does not, it may cause room for complaint after marriage.

Let a man never forget, in commencing to keep company with a lady, that the first thing for him to do is to study her character, and find out her peculiarities, and then to act accordingly. No man would think of acting in the same way in making love to different ladies, for what one lady likes another despises. Follow her up after her own fashion, if you would win her. There is nothing like constant devotion in the art of courting, assisted by poetry and a bit of romance; but few women have any notion of matter of fact reality about them before marriage.

To the rejected lover let me say, when you get "kicked," just kick off the thought of the once adored angel from your mind, go into the society of other ladies, make yourself lively and agreeable, and you will soon get over it. The young man who has once been accepted, but rejected afterwards by the interference of friends, needs a word of advice.

If you are determined to win, go to work like a man, and you are certain to do it. If the girl *really* loves you, she will assist you in consummating the object desired. If, though, you back

down, and make no effort to marry her, what can she do? She cannot hunt you up, but she looks to you to be persevering, and if you are not, she concludes you do not love her. "Never give up the ship."

### Wedding Cards.

In sending out invitations to a wedding, there are two cards folded in the invitation in the envelope. The invitation is in the name of the bride's mother—or, if she is not living, the relative or friend nearest the bride—and is as follows :

*Mrs. Clarence Pierson,*

*At Home,*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH,

No. 83 G—— Street.

From 2 till 5 o'clock.

The two cards, one large and one small, are folded in this, which is printed upon handsome note paper. Upon the large card is engraved :

*Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Bowers.*



On the smaller one :

*Miss Charlotte Pierson.*

If however, there is no bridal reception on the wedding day, but the young people "receive" after their return from the bridal tour, the card containing their joint names contains also the date of reception, as :

*Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bowers,*  
*At Home,*  
*Wednesday, December 15th,*

No. 27 W—— Street.

From 11 till 2 o'clock.

Or,

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bowers,  
 At Home,  
 Wednesdays in November,  
 No. 27 W—— Street. From 8 till 10 o'clock.

The bridal calls are not expected to be returned until the last day of reception.

At some weddings the cards bear no address, but are followed by others with an announcement of the return home in an engraved note, the parties filling in the date of the two days of reception.

The words "No Cards," affixed to wedding advertisements, do not exclude visits of congratulation. The gentleman and lady thus notify their friends that they intend to take things as they are, and are at home to *all* their friends. There is, of course, no notification of a day of set visits for congratulation, which, by the way, is a custom getting decrepit and out-worn, and perhaps not without good reasons. The visit after the honeymoon, therefore, comes in the ordinary course of a morning call.

These calls have to be returned by the bride and bridegroom; but, as it often happens that the husband is unable to spare the necessary time, the principal bridesmaid, who has assisted the bride in the reception of her friends, is the one upon whom the duty devolves of attending the young wife in these return visits, and with these her official cares end.

### Reciprocated Love.

"In peace, love tunes the shepherd's reed ;  
 In war, he mounts the warrior's steed ;  
 In halls, in gay attire is seen ;  
 In hamlets, dances on the green.  
 Love rules the camp, the court, the grove,  
 And men below, and saints above ;  
 For love is heaven, and heaven is love."

The theme of this chapter has been so far anticipated that any lengthened observations on the subject would be superfluous.



Instead of marrying from motives of a reasonable attachment, there are some who marry only for a home. It generally happens that the homes of such in their single life are very wretched. Their parents are dead, or, if living, are cruel; they are obliged to reside with strangers, or, what is worse, with unkind relatives. Their brothers and sisters are all married and provided for; and although some old maids are very useful, few ladies have any particular wish for that precise and fastidious estate. Rather than remain until all opportunity is gone, to escape from the trials of their single life, the lorn females who marry for a home accept the first gentleman that can provide them with one. But if there is no mutual love, the solitary lady will most consult her own welfare by adhering to single blessedness. She may be uncomfortable in her solitude and loneliness—

“But happier *there*, than the doom that awaits  
The bride who must smile on a being she hates.”

Know, as far as you may know, that your intended has surrendered the citadel of his soul and given you the keys before you consent to matrimony. “If you would know whether a young man, who offers his attentions towards you, truly loves you and with a virtuous regard, you must note whether he always treats you with the nicest degree of modesty and respect—whether he reproves you in tenderness for your faults—whether he consults your feelings in what he says or does—whether he appears to be willing to make little sacrifices for your comfort—whether he is ready to defend you when any one speaks unjustly against you—whether he is careful not to pay those attentions to others which of right belong to you—whether he sympathizes with you in troubles, and rejoices heartily with you in your pleasures—whether he seems anxious to shape his conduct so as to retain your esteem; and if you note all this in him, you may be pretty well sure of his love.”

All that this world can give will never compensate for the want of mutual love. It is far more important than anything that has been named in this book—far more important than anything that ever can be mentioned by man or angel. Excellence, genius, wealth, titles, honor, talent, fame, are all a bitter mockery where love is not. The proudest position is a humiliation, the most splendid alliance hideous, if the hearts that hold it are not held in love. The hanging gardens of ancient Babylon, in all their wondrous glory, would have been a sickening treasure to unloving wedded ones. Under their curse every pomp and grandeur in the world to them would molder like the Venetian palaces, and fade like the Tyrian dye. If the veil could be withdrawn from the thousands of dismal bargains, misnamed marriages, the woful sight would cause the fair reader to turn pale and shudder at the bare thought of such a marriage.

## Married Life:

ITS MISTAKES AND PLEASURES; HOW EVERY PERSON MAY BE  
HAPPY IN THE MARRIED STATE; DUTIES OF  
HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

Nothing can be of more absorbing interest to the larger class of mankind than the "secret of living happy in the married state," and for this reason I shall attempt giving the instructions which, if followed, will as certainly bring happiness, joy and peace to every fireside as that the rays of the sun in the spring bring forth vegetation. And, in the first place, allow me to say a few words to the

## YOUNG HUSBAND

which apply to him individually, after which the young wife will receive due attention.

Then to the young husband I will say, you have now taken a partner for life. From the numerous throng around you have selected a companion to whom you have plighted your vows of never dying affection and constancy, and whom you have promised before heaven to love, cherish and protect until you are parted by the icy hand of death.

You and your companion are now one, your interest, your prosperity, your enjoyments are now intimately blended with the interest, prosperity and enjoyments of her with whom your destiny has been united. The true happiness of husbands and wives is not derived from different and foreign sources, it rests on one basis, and that which destroys or weakens the felicity of one must destroy or weaken that of both.

Unless the husband and wife rightly estimate each other's value, and the peculiarity of each other's circumstances—unless they look upon one another in the light dictated by reason and common sense, how can they get along in harmony?

As the liability to err in this respect lies mostly with the husband, I have thought a few words on the estimation in which a wife should be held, and often is held, would be productive of good results.

We can have no better criterion by which to judge of the civilization and refinement of an age or nation than the estimation in which husbands hold their wives. Wherever mankind exist in the grossest ignorance and barbarity—wherever there is the greatest moral and mental darkness, there the wife is the least loved and least valued as a companion. This will hold true in the history of every nation and every age; in proof of which only take a view of the condition of wives in different countries.

In no part of the world are the people more ignorant than in Hindostan, and on no part of this earth does the condition of women appear more dreary! When married, their husbands have despotic control over them. If unable to support them, they *lend* or sell them to a neighbor; and, in the rage for gambling, wives and child



ren are often staked and lost. If they survive their husbands, they must pay implicit obedience to the oldest son. If they have no sons, the nearest male relative hold them in subjection; and if there happen to be no kinsmen, they fall into the hands of the chief of the tribe, at whose bidding they must go and come!

In Siberia, women are not allowed to eat with men, or partake of particular dainties. It is considered her duty to obey the most capricious and unreasonable demands and commands of her husband, without one word of expostulation or inquiry. Would not this be a splendid place for some of our bad-tempered snarly old bachelors, who have never met a woman fool enough to marry them? They had better all go there and try it! But to the subject again. In Siberia, if the woman's master be dissatisfied with the most trifling particular in her conduct, he tears the cap or veil from her head, and, ridiculous as it may appear, this constitutes a divorce.

The Druses, who inhabit the mountains called Anti-Sabanus, divorce their wives upon the most trivial provocation. If a wife requests permission to visit her friends, and the husband says "go," without adding, "but come back again," she is divorced.

The low estimation placed upon wives in ignorant ages and countries is, beyond a doubt, owing to the way in which they are procured. In most cases *love* has but little to do in the matter; it was looked upon as a mere matter of business. In Babylon, at one time (or perhaps it may exist yet), they had a yearly custom of a peculiar kind. In every district three men of undoubted virtue were chosen to conduct all marriageable girls to the public assembly. Here they were put up at auction by the public crier, while the magistrate presided over the sales. The most beautiful were sold first, and the rich contended as strongly as they do at this late date in our history, when men bid so high for a *ticket* at Jenny Lind's concerts, or the Italian opera—a thing as shameful and disgraceful now as the bidding for pretty girls at *that* age of the world.

The most ugly and deformed girls were next sold in succession to the handsomest, and assigned to any person who had no sense and no money combined. The price given for the most beautiful went as a dowry to the most ugly girls, so as to keep both in request in the market; for some one was mean enough then to sell happiness for money, just as we find the greater number at the present day.

Even those guardians of national morals, the English, have indulged in the practice of purchasing wives. Here is an advertisement we take from the *Calcutta Advertiser*, owned by an Englishman, in September, 1818:

"FEMALES RAFFLED FOR!—Be it known, that six fair, pretty young ladies, with two sweet engaging children, lately imported from Europe, having the roses of health blooming on their cheeks, and joy sparkling in their eyes, possessing amiable tempers, and highly accomplished, whom the most indifferent cannot behold

without rapture, are to be raffled for, next door to the British Gallery."

Thus we see what a state of things existed when women were not properly estimated. Then, let me say to those who have wives, if you would yourself be happy, and have a happy family, place a proper estimate upon the partner of your bosom, otherwise you or her will become victims of the most debasing influences. There is a rank to which the wife is justly entitled by relationship, by her worth and her abilities. It is not the rank of a slave, or a servant, or a dependent, but it is the rank of a companion, and in this light should be estimated by her husband. In giving him her hand, she no more bartered away her identity, or those distinct, inalienable rights which were bestowed on her by the Creator, as a separate and independent being, than does a commercial man in entering into a business copartnership. In one sense marriage is a copartnership formed for life!

Two individuals who were before entirely separate, possessing distinct rights and privileges, agree to form a union for mutual advantage and happiness. As in all human compacts for mutual good, the parties in matrimony voluntarily surrender certain minor rights, before proposed, that they may secure the greater benefits which result from coöperation in producing mutual enjoyment. It is as improper for the husband to look upon the wife as his servant or dependent, as it is for the wife to view the husband merely as a drudging machine, made to toil and labor to support her in idleness and extravagance, fashion and folly.

Young man, although you are not justified in permitting your wife to "wear the trousers," still, if you will pursue the right course, you will grant her what is her due, and at the same time have that dignified influence over her calculated to make you and her both happy.

Never speak an unkind word to your wife, when you wish her to comply with your requests; the age of driving wives into compliance with a husband's wishes has gone by, and, if you would avoid a life of misery, do not, on any occasion, try to coerce your wife into the path of duty. One little kind word will do more with woman than a thousand threats and a whole bushel of frowns and ugly faces. When you want her to hunt up your clean linen, or hurry a meal on the table, instead of saying, "Mary, go and fix up my things, and get breakfast on the table in a hurry," say to her, "Mary, dear, will you *please* have my things ready, and hurry breakfast, as I wish to attend to some matters very soon." Something in this way, I can assure you, will be the proper course. That one word "please" shows to the wife that the husband looks upon her as a companion and not as a *slave*.

And when the wife has done any little thing for you, which you are convinced was performed with a view to please you, although it may appear trivial, yet you must never fail to return her a "thank you" for her good intentions. If you are in trouble, or in a "pet" about anything, and your wife should come up to you with an in-



quiring look, a kind word and affectionate heart, do not drive her from you by evincing a determination not to be "troubled" with her at that time. By doing that, you would dry up that fountain of gushing sympathies in a very short time, which might cause you many sad regrets in after years.

Even if it is not so congenial to our nature to show these little attentions to your wife at first, by accustoming yourself to it you will soon find it like second nature.

Is it any wonder that we so often witness unhappiness in the married state when we see how most of men do? Before they are married the young man always finds it convenient to carry to his intended some little present or other, and is always trying how great an estimation he can show for her, making her think that he esteems her beyond description. Yes, many a confiding and affectionate girl has been heard to say of her lover, "Oh! he loves me so dearly, he can never treat me bad when we are married, for he thinks I am almost an angel on earth;" but yet that the same one has been heard to cry out in her agony, "What is man, that I should love him? Nothing but deception."

As soon as they are married the man who could bestow such delicate attentions on her has become careless, thinking his wife does not look for anything of the kind. Now, this is wrong in the extreme, and many a time have we seen proof of it. It is not that such little presents are worth much to the lady, but it shows to her an intention on your part to keep alive in your heart a little of that romantic enthusiasm that first won her affections.

You may rest assured that there is nothing more delightful for a wife to hear from the lips of her husband than conversations concerning the courtship which resulted in their union. Yes, though she be forty or fifty years old, her heart is made glad by a recital of the scenes which once animated her bosom.

Taken altogether, to make your wife love you, and yourself feel happy, you must exercise towards her *kindness*, and let her feel that you do not look upon her as an inferior being, but as one who should share your joys, your sorrows and troubles. Another thing you should be reminded of. You must make your wife feel that you have the most implicit confidence in her, in every way; she is not likely very often to betray your confidence under such circumstances; but let her once think that you have *not* confidence in her, and *you are done for!* as she is likely to think then that she had as well have the "game as the blame," and will thus lead you a life of wretchedness. Even if you have reason to think she would not do to trust with any important secret, tell her something which is in reality not of much importance, but tell her of the affair in such a way as to make her believe it is of vital import, at the same time telling her that she must not speak of it, as it might injure you very seriously.

Should she then tell it, and you hear of it, you can with great propriety tell her that she has betrayed your confidence, and also done you an injury, but do not scold her or quarrel with her about

it, but tell her in the kindest manner possible that it was your love and a confiding heart that prompted you to entrust her with the keeping of that which should have been as interesting to her as you ; but eventually tell her you forgive her for it, hoping she will do better next time. If she is a woman of any sentiment, she will feel this more keenly than any other course you could take, and will be very apt to come to you, like "an erring child," fall upon your neck, asking you not to think hard of her, and promise to be more careful in future, at the same time lavishing many a warm and precious kiss on you, her own dear husband. How beautiful such a scene—how happy the contemplation ! contrasted with raving and scolding, "pouts," and perplexing pettings, with those who take the other way of getting along with a wife.

Remember well what you here read, and in future years you will feel happy that you ever saw this little book.

The cases where it is necessary for the husband to issue an absolute command to his wife, are very rare. When there is a difference of opinion between the husband and the wife, upon an important subject connected with the welfare of the family, there should be a free and unrestrained interchange of views and feelings, without bitterness or acrimony, or harshness, from either party. The husband must never think of silencing his wife by his right of *authority*, but listen to what she has to say, and, if nothing more, respect her feelings. But we will now say a few words on another part of our subject, as the limits of this book compel us to be brief. Then a few words to

#### THE YOUNG WIFE

will be the next thing I will notice, and I sincerely hope that every one interested will give that attention which the importance of the case demands. The young wife, in entering the marriage state, has materially changed her circumstances in life. She has left the paternal roof, the counsels and admonitions of a kind father, the oft-repeated precepts and the gentle restraints of an affectionate mother—and commenced walking in a path which is, to her, new and all unknown. She has thus arrived at the second of the three great eras in life—birth being the first and death the last.

Marriage is a momentous period in the existence of woman. It is full of interest, and fraught with the most important consequences. In looking back, faithful memory will enable her to trace her way through childhood and youth, amid scenes bright with the rosy smiles of innocence, and filled with the gaiety and joyousness so suitable to young hearts. The retrospection may bring tears of pleasing melancholy into her eyes, and for a time things will look strangely sad, but in a short time this will wear away, and if she has been well mated she will be happy. But yet you must not view matrimony as a state of uninterrupted felicity—with no clouds to intercept its sunshine, and no storms to interrupt its serenity ; if you cherish such anticipations you must be disappointed. Due allowance must be made in all things for those frailties to which



our race is subjected; for these frailties must and will exhibit themselves in much of the conduct of men.

Therefore do not suffer yourself to fret and scold to death the first little fault you may see in your husband, for everything mortal has its faults; and you must try and correct those faults by kindness, and not by taking a fit of hysterics or by crying your eyes out, and if ever you say anything to your husband about said fault, be certain that you do so when both him and you are in the best humor possible, for then you will be more likely to make a favorable impression; he will be very apt to notice this act of discreetness and judgment on your part, and be more likely to get rid of his fault, if possible. A few words to you, young wives, concerning the duty you owe to your husband, will not be unpleasant to you, I trust, on this occasion, as it is not only my duty to tell young husbands what to do, but young wives also. Then, in the first place, you must ever bear in mind that there is one who is the head of the family, and that one is the husband, whom it is right you should on all occasions obey when complying would not conflict with the laws of reason or of your God.

Although it is right that he should always request you to do his wishes, yet if in a moment of haste or passion he should *command* you, do not stop then and there to argue the merits of the case, but do what he wishes, and then on some suitable occasion tell him that you feel much more like doing anything for him when he rather prefaces his *commands* by the proper "trimmings." In this way you will give him a broad hint in a very genteel way, which will do him more good than anything else.

The wife should always bear in mind that the first and most obvious duty on her part is to promote her husband's happiness. This, it is true, is a reciprocal duty, equally binding on both parties in the marriage contract, but still, from the tenderness and affection which dwell in woman's heart, and from her greater ability to be attractive and pleasing, it seems more directly within the province of the wife, as it is certainly more in her power, to set the example in those pleasing and winning attentions which so much conduce to the enjoyments of married life.

There is no other possible manner in which she can succeed in making her husband kind, agreeable and pleasant than by striving to promote his enjoyments by assiduous and unwearied attentions.

The wife should ever bear in mind that the origin of that union which has given her a provider and protector for life was not in herself, but in her husband. She did not seek him out and propose herself to him, but he sought her—he selected her from all the throng by which she was surrounded—he bestowed upon her his heart's undivided attention and affections—he made her his bride, and promised before God and the world to "love, cherish and protect her." He has provided for her a home, and he toils, and is willing to toil in his business to obtain all things requisite to her enjoyments.

These attentions and favors demand an adequate return, and

make it the solemn and imperious duty of the wife to strive, as far as possible, to promote her husband's happiness.

In promoting her husband's happiness, the wife should endeavor to ascertain his disposition and habits. Every man has his peculiarities. A wife, by exercising proper discernment, can soon become acquainted with those pertaining to her husband; and her conduct towards him should have direct reference to his peculiarities, and should be of such a nature as to allow those of an unpleasant character to sleep in embryo, and those that are valuable to be brought into constant activity.

If your husband has a whimsical notion about anything, if you can, consistently with reason and common sense, humor this whim, it will save you a vast deal of unpleasant annoyance through life.

For instance, I have known men who could not bear for their wives to call them *Mister*, but they must be called John, Thomas, Willie, or whatever their Christian name may be. Again, there are those who must be called *Mister* all the time, and would be much offended if called in any other way by the wife.

Now, in a thousand little things you will find this man, that and the other, in some way peculiar, and you must learn to humor them; they will bestow on you many appreciable things if you do, which you might not otherwise obtain.

If you would make a deep and lasting impression on your husband's mind favorable for you, pay him the most perfect attention if he at any time gets sick; you must make yourself as much concerned for him then as you possibly can, and when he gets well, mark my word for it, he will not soon forget it.

You must strive to love your husband's relations as well as your own; this is very necessary, and be careful in saying anything against them to any one, for should he hear of it his feelings might be embittered for life.

There is no husband who is worth anything but who likes to see his wife always "fixed up," or, in other words, always looking neat. Don't forget this, and no matter how plain your dress may be, keep the hair and head in good order, your dress neatly fitting, and your countenance sweet and calm. Your husband is certain to be much fonder of you and will feel a pride in being in your company.

Have no confidential friend but one—let that be your husband.

Be neat and orderly in everything about your household matters.

Be industrious. Your husband will prize ten-fold anything made by your hands to what he would if you bought it.

Never let your husband think you love him less after marriage than you did before; fondness for each other's happiness and enjoyments united is the motto.

Let the wife establish it as an invariable rule to treat her husband with constant and unwearied kindness, whatever may be his conduct; this has made many a bad husband a good one, and it costs you but little to exercise it.



A woman should never attempt to rule her husband. The wife should guard against the first promptings of jealousy, or she will be so a lifetime.

Always meet your husband with a smile, as he returns from the engagements of the day; you cannot imagine how it softens man's nature.

Make home cheerful, happy, attractive, if you would have your husband stay at home. More depends on the wife than any one else in making home happy, and but few husbands would leave a sweet wife, a good fire, and a thousand other endearments and comforts, of a long winter's evening, to go strolling about from home.

I have now said about all on this part of the subject that the limits of this book will admit of, but I could write a volume alone on this subject of some size, and I may at some future time do so, but for the present I have not time or space.

### Position in Life.

There are many who manage to live without any fixed position in society—without any particular business or profession; but their life is a very uncertain one, full of chance and accident; the life of the professional gambler is not more hazardous. No sensible female would think of marrying a person of this precarious class.

To have a fixed position in society is not all that is required. Indeed, it would be difficult to tell which of the two is the greater evil, to have no station in life, or to be unequal to a fixed position. It is painful to see so many in different situations in life who are altogether unqualified for the duties and obligations of their position. Their life must be one, either of indifference or recklessness, or suffering and struggle. Their incapacity and unfitness may spring from a variety of causes; such as want of ability, or of means and inclination. But whatever may be the cause of a man's being unequal to, and unfit for his sphere of life, he wastes his existence in fruitless endeavors to sail against winds and tides, having no power to control the elements, or guide himself. His imbecility of intellect and deficiency of education are perpetually oozing out to his own personal damage, the pain of his friends and the no small gratification of his enemies. He cannot be other than a source of torment to himself, and of pain and ridicule to others, for his constant mistakes and general inefficiency are always rewarding him with trouble and disgrace. The ill effects of his incompetence are by no means confined to himself. Others are involved. Others suffer through what he does, and they are blamed for that for which he alone is responsible. The incompetent man is always at war with himself, and with all in any way connected with his duties and engagements. No precaution, no prudence, no business checks can counteract his blundering and stupidity. He endeavors, whenever it is at all feasible, to throw the blame on other people. This leads to unfairness, misrepresentation and lying, so that he who

enters on a sphere for which he is not qualified is sometimes driven from it by the immorality which his feebleness of intellect necessitates.

Of all the men unequal to their station in life, commend us to Clericus. He, illustrious scion of a noble house, enters the Church under family auspices, having no natural aptitude of speech. He never had a new idea in his life, nor an old idea that he could honestly call his own. But that was all the better for his orthodoxy. His non-inventiveness would prevent speculation, and confine him to unquestioning faith in creed and catechism. Clericus could not preach. No matter; it only gave dear mamma better occasion to show her love for the young ecclesiastical sprig; and she, good mother, purchased a stock of sermons—sermons that always did their duty, without ever giving so much as one blush for the direct lie lithographic, uttered every Sunday, where only truth ought to be spoken. Clericus had a curate, from whose lips, unfortunately, genius poured her golden tide. This could not be endured. It was “such a specimen of vanity” in the poor curate to be eloquent; in short, he was dismissed with aristocratic righteousness for his sinful popularity. Besides, Clericus did not believe that Divine truth needed any human adorning, he himself being a bright specimen of how little wit can sometimes suffice *to make a parson*.

The artificial position of those whose means are out of all proportion to their style and manner of life is one of the most wretched and harassing character. If they are conscientious and earnest men, they can pass through no greater purgatory; and, if they are heartless and unprincipled, their life is the perdition of a scoundrel. Liabilities they cannot meet, bills returned and dishonored, advancements from loan societies and insurance offices, profitable speculations rendered abortive or ruinous from want of funds to conduct them to a successful issue; these are the plagues of those who trade beyond their capital, or who live only for appearances. The constant anxiety and untruthfulness of an artificial position is the death of pure and healthy sentiment. It withers each pretty flower, and dries up each sparkling stream. The exquisite loveliness of divine idealism cannot subsist on artifice. Would that the evils of an artificial position ended with the destruction of wholesome sentiment. It destroys health, drains the constitution, and only terminates in open ruin and public disgrace.

Take not for a husband one whose station in life you disapprove, and in which you have good reason to believe you could not be comfortable. Different spheres of life are adapted to different individuals. What is pleasing and suitable for one, is unpleasing and unsuitable for another. A rollicking fox-hunter should forswear all curates, nor should the retirement-loving maiden become the soldier's bride. A great deal has been said of late about the right men in the right place. But are not females to an equal extent misplaced? One full of poetry and sentiment marries a dry, hard, cash-box sort of man; while another having neither wit, beauty nor taste is joined to a gentleman of liberal education, re-



finer tastes and high culture. The covetous woman marries a gentleman so rich that he needs no saving wife, while the gentleman of small means, and every need of economy, marries a giddy spend-thrift, who ruins him by her extravagance, which in another sphere, and with larger means, would have been no extravagance at all.

Still, on the matter of appropriate sphere, there is considerable uncertainty, and not much room for positiveness. It cannot be denied that many females have taken a lot very different from their habits and intentions, and they have accommodated themselves to their new position with a rapidity and efficiency that might well cause astonishment. With health and good sense, with education and all-absorbing love, a right-hearted woman can adapt herself to almost any sphere of life. This is not said that you may be indifferent what situation in life you are to occupy, but to show that there are certain womanly qualities that can surmount any difficulties, and make a home anywhere; but that these high qualities are rare, should make you pause and think seriously before you undertake to move in an unsuitable sphere.

The following sensible passage from a sensible writer may appropriately close this chapter: "*A wife's sympathy with a husband's calling.*" Nothing contributes more to sustain a man, and to urge him forward in the duties of his calling, than the lively sympathies of his wife. If she discovers a pleasure and a pride in his employment and his success, if she gives him her cheering support in his trials, if she enters with warm and lively interest into the very objects which most engage his own heart, he is rendered more than doubly strong and happy. Whatever his employment be, she must have that sympathizing spirit which will adopt it as soon as she is married, *and love it for his sake.* I recently heard a lady, whose husband is the owner of a large manufactory, on which he has bestowed much time and interest, incidentally remark that nothing affords her so much pleasure as to visit the establishment; that she frequently spends whole hours, with the greatest delight, in examining the beauty of its machinery and the results of its operation. Now I will venture to say that this greatly adds to her husband's happiness. It is always a proud and happy moment for the devoted husband when the eyes of her for whom he so much lives and labors gaze with delight upon what his hands have wrought or his mind conceived. It is strange that so many wives are insensible to this fact. Now, unless a lady has lively sympathies, she cannot enter into the spirit of this idea; she will never think it is not quite as well to let her husband toil on alone, without ever being once cheered with perceiving that she appreciates his labor and takes pleasure in it; and the consequence must inevitably be that his affection toward her, and his care for her esteem, will abate, and he will at length punish her by seeking his sympathy and happiness from some other source. Make it a primary object, therefore, if you would taste the sweets of domestic happiness, to cultivate a lively and sympathizing spirit. Depend upon it, no beauty of person, no grace of manner, or learning, or wit, will ever atone

for the absence of this. Without this you will not be loved with a full heart ; and with this, even in the absence of many other desirable qualities, you can hardly fail to be loved with a constant and growing affection.

### Remarks on Marriage.

In a recent work, entitled "Priests, Women and Families," wishing to preserve the young wife from the fatal influence of the Jesuit, and to impress upon the husband's mind the necessity of securing that ascendancy which he is certain to obtain at the commencement of wedded life, makes an observation which many may pursue with advantage.

"Marriage gives the husband a single and momentary opportunity to become in reality the master of his wife ; to withdraw her from the influence of another, and make her his own for ever. Does he profit by it ? Very rarely. He ought, in the very beginning, when he has much influence over her, to let her participate in the activity of his mind, his business and ideas ; initiate her in his projects, and create an activity in her by means of his own.

"To wish and to think as he does—both acting with him and suffering with him—this is marriage. The worst that may happen is, not that she may suffer, but that she may languish and pine away—living apart, and like a widow. How can we wonder, then, if her affections for him be lessened ? Ah ! if in the beginning he had made her his own, by making her share his ambition, troubles and uneasiness ; if they had watched whole nights together, and been troubled with the same thoughts, he would have retained her affections. Attachment may be strengthened by grief itself, and mutual suffering may maintain mutual love."

### On the Bride neglecting her Person and Attire.

And here we would remark on the fatal habit some young women assume of neglecting, shortly after marriage, their persons and their attire, except when they are going into company ; as if they would say to their husbands, We have no longer any desire to please you, those days, those hours are passed. And this is the more galling to the husband when he calls to mind the many arts, allurements and enticements which were called into play to captivate his fancy and secure his affections before marriage.

But why are these powers of charming, these faculties of pleasing, and delighting, and attracting, now to be utterly renounced, and contemptuously abandoned ? Why is *Come, love me*, no longer to be stamped upon her countenance ? The recently married woman should recollect that the virgin stands like a blooming rose in the midst of a garden, and draws all eyes to her. The wife is the rose gathered and bound in a garland for the husband's head.



### Mutual Confidence.

Let the husband admit the wife to all his secrets, and make her his sole confidante. They who truly love have but one heart, their thoughts, their hopes, their fears, their feelings are in common; therefore it is next to impossible that there be a secret on either side.

It is a calumny to pronounce it unsafe to do so. We admit that a wife does sometimes betray a secret committed to her charge, but under what circumstances? Why, when she is but once in a while treated as a reasonable and confidential being—when, in a rare moment of good humor, the husband imparts some information of trifling import; then, perhaps, in order to show that she stands exalted in her husband's opinion, and is not quite so much contemned as is generally supposed, she may be so imprudent as to betray the trust, but it is then, and then only. But when the husband makes her bosom the emporium, the chest, the treasury of his hopes, his fears, his wishes, his anxieties, does she then betray his confidence? No, no; it is woman who is faithful unto death.

### Remarks to both Parties.

Should differences arise between husband and wife, the contest ought not to be, as it unfortunately too frequently is, who shall display the most spirit, but who shall make the first advances, which ought to be met more than half way.

There is scarcely a more prolific source of unhappiness in the married state than this spirit, the legitimate offspring of odious pride and destitution of feeling.

Perhaps the whole art of happiness in the married state might be compressed into two maxims—"Bear and forbear;" and "Let the husband treat his wife, and the wife her husband, with as much respect and attention as he would a strange lady and she a strange gentleman."

I trust much caution is scarcely necessary against flirtations, well calculated to excite uneasiness, doubts and suspicions in the heart of the husband or wife of the party who indulges in them, and to give occasion to the censorious to make sinister observations; and it is unfortunately too true that the suspicion of misconduct often produces fully as much scandal and evil as the reality.

Avoid all reference to past differences of opinion or subjects of altercation that have, at a former day, excited uneasiness. Remember the old story of the blackbird and the thrush. "I insist it was a blackbird." "But I insist it was a thrush," &c.

The preceding rules, if as closely followed as human imperfection will allow, can hardly fail to secure happiness. And should only one out of every ten readers profit by them, we shall be richly paid for their concoction.

### Concluding Remarks.

Having kept company with us so long—we trust with both profit and pleasure—bear with us in our winding up remarks. If, like tens of thousands of others, you have unhappily made a false step by entering into the marriage relation, don't sit down sadly bemoaning your sad lot, but rouse all your faculties and strive to make the very best of a bad bargain. Resign yourself to the inevitable; and try by opposing good to ill-temper—mixing honey with vinegar—to live a life of at least tranquility, if not real happiness.

If, on the contrary, you have but lately married and are happy, weigh well how you may henceforward derive the greatest happiness from the choice you have made—how strengthen and preserve the chords of love, and prevent the weeds of dissension from springing up and defacing the garden of Eden wherein you dwell.

And finally, good reader, whether you be long married or newly-married, earnestly repeating our cautions, and exhorting you to try the effect of forbearance, mild expostulation, calm reasoning, self-mortification, urbanity, unremitting kindness, and self-control—we now sum up, in the language of the Swan of Avon :

“Thrice happy they who temper so their blood.  
But earthlier happy is the rose distilled,  
Than that which withering on the virgin thorn—  
Lives, blooms and dies in single blessedness.”

### Love Letters.

It is almost impossible to lay down rules for writing a love letter. Some young gentlemen make themselves very ridiculous with their pens. They overdo the thing. After you are engaged to be married, it is best not to be too sweet upon your sweetheart, or she may become disgusted. Before engagement, she will perhaps bear a little soft-solder or highfalutin, if not laid on too thick. Do not put too many adjectives in your letters, and as a general rule avoid the repetition of endearing terms. One dose of adulation is quite sufficient to give at one time. If your sweetheart is a sensible girl, she will make wry faces even at that. The generality of the sex, however, love to be loved, and how are they to know the fact that they *are* loved unless they are told? To write a sensible love letter requires more talent than to solve, with your pen, a profound problem in philosophy. Lovers must not then expect much from each other's epistles. As the object of this little treatise is to aid young men in their courtships, we will give a few specimens of letters that may be written to bring about an understanding between would-be contracting parties. Also forms of answers to the same where young ladies desire to return their autographs :

The following letter may be written by a young man who has shown a partiality for the society of a lady, but who has not had



the courage to tell her that "he adores her." If she accepts him under such circumstances, she will consider herself as good as engaged to be married :

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

DEAR MISS THORNE :

I hope you will forgive me for presuming to write to you without permission, for I assure you it is with reluctance I take up my pen. But I feel that I *must* reveal to you my feelings and my hopes. Trusting that my attentions have, in a measure, prepared you for a demonstration of some kind as regards the future, I now throw myself at your feet, and ask your love ! If I know my own heart, it has an unalterable affection for you. Can you, and will you respond to it ? I will be with you this evening, when I hope to be greeted with loving smiles of approval. Adieu till then.

H. SEYMOUR.

If the girl is pleased with her beau, and means to accept him, the letter needs no reply ; but if she thinks he is in too great a hurry, or if she is indifferent towards him, or wishes to coquette him a little, she may write back as follows :

FIVE O'CLOCK.

DEAR MR. SEYMOUR :

Your note took me by surprise, and I beg that you will excuse me from responding to it for the present. I shall have no objection to meeting you as a friend at all reasonable times ; but let us not speak of closer ties at present.

Truly yours,

E. THORNE.

A young man having had a dispute with his sweetheart, goes off in a cold mood, and writes her a note the next morning. [N. B. Some lovers may contrive to get up a little quarrel for this purpose.] The opportunity to write such a note as this should not be lost, as almost any girl would relish the "edging in" of her lover's declaration by such means. If the dispute be a "got up thing," it must be done neatly, so that she will not suspect you :

ALLENTOWN, Friday, A. M.

DEAR SARAH :

Excuse me for writing this note. I was much vexed when I left you last evening, and I now feel ashamed of it, and ask your forgiveness. I have scarcely the courage to go to you to-day, and yet I shall be very unhappy if I do not. O, Sarah ! my love for you cannot be expressed in words. I have heard and read of woman's devotedness, and if I could only experience a little of it from you, this earth would be a heaven to me ! What shall I do to win your heart ? Hereafter I will never contradict you in anything. My whole study shall be to please you and make you happy. And

can you—will you not love me a little in return? I feel that I shall be rewarded with a loving smile when next we meet. Till then adieu.

GEORGE.

The following is a letter to a young lady with whom your acquaintance is very limited. You cannot speak to her with as much familiarity as you would to one in whose family you have been intimate:

TUESDAY MORNING.

MY DEAR MISS CLAYTON:

Feeling an interest in you that it is impossible to describe in words, I have resorted to my pen, and I hope I may not offend you in so doing. Nothing short of the holiest feeling of the human heart would ever prompt me to intrude myself upon the notice of a young lady, under any circumstances: and if I know my own heart it feels an interest in you that no effort of mine can shake off. I wish you could appreciate this feeling, and I am sure you would pity me if you did not receive me as a suitor. The object of this note is to ask your permission to pay you friendly visits with a view to closer ties should my society prove agreeable. I will not even request an answer in writing, though if you are pleased to accord me one I shall of course feel highly flattered. I will do myself the honor of calling on you Wednesday evening, on which occasion I hope for much happiness.

Yours with much esteem,

JOHN DAVIS.

If the lady is pleased with him—or if she thinks he is a person that she can respect as a friend and will be agreeable as an acquaintance—she can answer the note in a brief manner, something to the following effect:

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

MR. DAVIS:

Dear Sir:—I received your note and thank you for your candor and kind confidence. I shall be happy to see you this evening; and whenever you are pleased to call on me I shall endeavor to make you welcome.

Truly yours,

LETITIA E. CLAYTON.

A young fellow to whom his sweetheart had given “the cold shoulder,” for some good cause, wishes to show his penitence, and at the same time flatter her a little. He therefore humbles himself as per example:

WINCHESTER, 8th July, 18—.

MY DEAREST JOSEPHINE:

For thus I will still venture to call you, though my heart tells me that I no longer possess either your confidence or your esteem. What shall I do to regain your favor? Must I protest that the



love I bear you is false? Would this odious perjury be worthy a heart where you reign supreme? Pity me, Josephine, but do not scorn me. Deign at least to dispose of my fate. Let me know your will. What ever it may be, I will obey. Impose upon me an eternal silence! I will keep it strictly. Banish me from your presence! I swear to leave you forever. In fact I will cheerfully do anything that you request, except to forget you, which would be impossible. Josephine, I still hope for forgiveness. If you are not beyond the reach of mercy, I pray you throw of that haughty coldness that almost drives me to despair. One kind and encouraging word would make me the happiest man living. Can you not speak it? Will you not allow me to expiate my offence? If not, I must know my fate from your own mouth.

Despairingly, your loving friend,

SAM'L BARNES.

A gentleman having been called out of town on business, writes to his lady-love and explains the cause of his absence. The lady sends him a loving and forgiving reply, whereupon the young man vents his enthusiasm for her in the following impressive language:

PITTSBURGH, 20th Dec., 18—.

DEAREST EMILY:

I received your letter, and I thank you for your generous confidence. I will endeavor, by a careful study of my daily life, to merit the love and regard of one whose touching candor, reasonable intelligence and correct taste has overwhelmed me with delight. When the attractions of your person first dazzled me, the thought of a more powerful bond of union was not entertained, but now I feel my own weakness as I contemplate those charms of the mind which my own common-place thoughts can approach only with veneration. Let others think of you as beautiful, amiable, and worthy the heart of any honorable man; I will be content with a sweet communion with your thoughts. I have flattered myself at times that heaven ordained a conformity of affection between us. Pray God that it is so—that you, my dear girl, are possessed of a pure affection for me. Our future happiness will then be assured. In two weeks I shall return home. The time seems an age to me, but if I have letters from you, I shall enjoy much happiness, even here. Remember me kindly to your mother and sisters, and believe me, I remain,

Your grateful and loving friend,

E. JAMIESON.

FROM A POOR YOUNG MAN TO A RICH YOUNG LADY WHOM HE  
HAD ONLY SEEN BUT A FEW TIMES.

DEAR MISS W—:

You will no doubt be surprised to receive a letter from one who is almost a total stranger to you, but I hope you will pardon me for my boldness when I tell you how truly, how deeply I love you.

Perhaps prudence would dictate that I should, for the present, at least, withhold this confession, but my heart is impatient and will not be quieted until I have made you acquainted with its secret. I am aware that the suddenness of my passion may awaken the suspicion that it is only a shallow and transient feeling, but I am sure that you have won my whole heart, and what more could you do were those charms of yours, which have so easily captivated me, to shine before me for years? Love is not a *vegetable* that it must grow, nor is it a thing of *logic* that it must depend upon sequences and conclusions; but it is a passion of the soul, which may, like thought, be born in an instant, especially in the presence of beauty and accomplishments such as you possess.

All I expect in answer to this, I fear, imprudent note, is some intimation that I may dare to hope that I do not live without hope. Give me but an opportunity to prove myself worthy of the infinite happiness which your love would bestow, and there is no impossibility I would not achieve to obtain it. Indeed, since the first night I saw you, the perfection and the constellation of charms that shine in your person have filled my heart and brain so full that I can do nothing but think of you all day and dream of you all night. I cannot imagine any happiness for myself in the future which is not identified with you.

If your heart is yet free, and if you do not find objections to answering this note, I entreat you to deal with me with the same direct frankness that I have used in addressing you.

I am, with great respect and devoted love,  
HENRY B—.

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THE ANSWER.

Boston, May 10, 18—.

DEAR SIR :

It would be affectation in me to deny that your note of the 10th inst. pleases, as much as it surprises me; nor will I attempt to disguise that, at the present moment, I sincerely hope that you have rightly estimated the nature of the sentiment which you so frankly profess. There are no objections either to my corresponding with you, or receiving you as a guest at my father's house. The frankness of your letter agrees with the idea that I had already formed of your character, and inspires me with confidence that you are incapable of any motive which should justly cause a lady to treat you with the severity of greater formality.

With great respect, &c.,  
MAGGIE W—.

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FROM A GENTLEMAN TO A YOUNG LADY WITH WHOM HE IS  
ONLY SLIGHTLY ACQUAINTED.

New York, May 3, 18—.

TO MISS RYERSON :

Having had the pleasure of meeting you on several occasions, and being an ardent admirer of your beauty and excellent qualities,



I would offer myself as a suitor for your hand. You may perhaps say that you are not sufficiently well acquainted with me. I grant it, and would prefer that you consider the matter carefully and first become acquainted with my family and home, of which I feel assured that you will soon become as proud as I am. Being by nature warm-hearted like yourself, you will find me true and faithful, ever ready to look to your comfort and happiness, and anxious to retain your love. It will be my aim and object to make your home such that you will never have cause to regret your choice. Hoping in the near future to receive a favorable reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,                      HARRY BROWER.

A GENTLEMAN, HAVING ATTENDED A GOLDEN WEDDING, WRITES TO ONE OF THE GUESTS AS FOLLOWS :

NEW YORK, June 2, 18—.

MY DEAR MISS H—:

The very delightful party of last night was one which will long be remembered by those present, and by none longer than myself. I hope you enjoyed it thoroughly. How exquisite a spectacle, that of the lovers of years ago once more assembling their friends as witnesses to the union of hearts which age has not withered nor the passing of time cooled toward each other. To me there was great significance in the ceremonies of the evening. For those who aspire towards such a union themselves there almost seemed to be a wish and a prophecy of like love and a similar history. To me they spoke words of encouragement and gave me hope. May I not take to myself that courage and that hope, and ask you to return a love which is as fond, and which will be as enduring as that is of our dear host and hostess. My dear Miss H—, I have longed to say this to you before. I have often nearly broken a silence which in plain truth I need not have kept. I will do so now. I will at once assure you of my earnest love, and beg you to think of me with favor. You are to me dearer than all the world besides, and you always will be. Tell me that I may come to you and say it, and you will make me happier than words can express. This may seem too abrupt—but were I to write a million pages, they would but repeat that I love you and ask you to love me. Am I too bold in signing myself

Ever your most affectionate

JOHN —.

ANSWER TO THE PRECEDING.

MY DEAR MR. J—:

You are rather bold; but I forgive you. I am not even angry enough to scold. Yes, it was a delightful party, and the happiness which was diffused around brought tears into my eyes more than once. Not that I am sentimental—but the scene was so full of joy-

fulness. You ask me to love you. I am not a coquette, and therefore confess that I love you already. Silly boy—don't you know it? But I think you do. You see I am perfectly candid. Why should I not be? You may come and tell me again what you have written, and I will repeat your own phrase, that I am

Ever your most affectionate

CORA —.

Sensible girl that. She will make a good wife.

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FROM A YOUNG MAN WHO IS TOO BASHFUL TO SPEAK HIS MIND,  
BUT EXPRESSES HIS THOUGHTS ON PAPER.

New York, Sept. 10, 18—.

To Miss THORNE:

I have many times attempted to give you a verbal relation of the contents of this letter, but my heart has as often failed. I know not in what light it may be considered, but if I can form any notion of my own heart from the impression made on it by your many noble accomplishments, my happiness will, in a great measure, depend on your answer. I am not precipitate, nor would I desire your hand if your heart did not accompany it. My circumstances are independent and my character hitherto unblemished, of which you will have the most undoubted proof. Your charming beauty and generous nature; your self-reliance and superior intelligence; your behavior always consistent with the duty of morality, entitle you to much more than I am able to give you. But, believe me, my heart is struggling under the anxieties of real and genuine love, and nothing in this world can ever be as dear as you are. I shall wait your answer with the utmost impatience, and am your real admirer,

DAVID MILNER.

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LETTER TO A YOUNG LADY AFTER SEEING HER IN A STORE.

MADAM:

You will perhaps think it extraordinary that a young man should take the liberty of addressing you without even the formality of a previous introduction. I have to apologize, therefore, and I hope that you will at least forgive me if you cannot confer the favor which I would ask. I have so far seen you only through the window of ——'s store, but cannot explain to you how great a desire I feel that I should enjoy the very great pleasure of your acquaintance. I might perhaps obtain this, if you allowed me to do so, by means of some mutual friend, but I know of none. There is no alternative for me but a direct request, and I thought it more respectful to make it by letter. It would at this moment be impertinent to allude further to the great admiration which I have for you, in begging you to give me an opportunity of introducing myself, and I must add of satisfying you of my respectability. I feel



that I have already run the risk of causing you annoyance. To have done so would have been a source of deep regret. I trust that you will be so kind as to give me even the slightest intimation of your wishes, and you may depend upon my intruding no further without your permission.

Respectfully,

HERBERT WHITE.

REPLY.

SIR:

Your note has very much surprised me. You are so entirely unknown to me that I cannot guess what my correspondent's appearance even may be. Under these circumstances I must decline saying more than that I can neither refuse nor comply with your request. I think indeed that I ought at once to refuse it.

ROSE —.

FROM A LADY TO AN INCONSTANT LOVER.

DEAR C—:

It is with great reluctance that I enter upon a subject which has given me great pain, and upon which silence has become impossible if I would preserve my self-respect. You cannot but be aware that I have just reason for saying that you have much displeased me. You have apparently forgotten what is due to me, circumstanced as we are, thus far at least. You cannot suppose that I can tamely see you disregard my feelings, by conduct toward other ladies from which I should naturally have the right to expect you to abstain. I am not so vulgar a person as to be jealous. When there is cause to infer changed feelings, or unfaithfulness to promises of constancy, jealousy is not the remedy. What the remedy is I need not say—we both of us have it in our own hands. I am sure you will agree with me that we must come to some understanding by which the future shall be governed. Neither you nor I can bear a divided allegiance. Believe me that I write more in sorrow than in anger. You have made me very unhappy, and perhaps thoughtlessly. But it will take much to reassure me of your unaltered regard.

Yours truly,

EMMA —.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

TO MISS ROSE TERRY:

It is but a few short months since we met, and yet in that time I have come to regard you more in the light of a heavenly angel than an earthly mortal, and in thee, dearest, I have found the ideal I have so long pictured as the woman I could love and cherish for a lifetime. I have neither wealth nor station to offer thee, but instead an honest, loyal and lasting love, which you will increase tenfold in brightness and glory if you will but accept it. This is sudden—too sudden, I fear—but my excuse is the hope of winning a

sweet, gracious wife, who alone can make me happy. Write me at the earliest moment, I beseech thee, dearest love, and tell me if I am to be the happiest man in all the world. With feelings of the highest esteem and the deepest, most loyal love, I am thine,

JAMES LEON.

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LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN TO A LADY, ASKING FOR AN INTERVIEW UPON HER RECOVERY FROM A SEVERE ILLNESS, AND DECLARING HIS LOVE.

MISS VIOLET LIVINGSTON:

Having heard the happy tidings of your recovery from your late severe illness, I write to beg that you will grant me an interview.

The agony which I suffered while you were in danger, has opened my eyes to the depth of my affection for you, and my fear that I should never see you again proved what a weary blank life would be to me deprived of your presence.

Will you let me see you and plead for your love, the greatest boon that I can receive on earth?

I love you sincerely and devotedly, and, if you can return my affection, your happiness shall be the study of my life.

Anxiously awaiting your reply, I am, my dear friend,

Yours devotedly.

STEPHEN B. TRAIN.

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A YOUNG LADY AND GENTLEMAN INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT A BALL.

MISS SLOANE.

DEAR MADAM:—I trust that you experienced no inconvenience from attending the ball last night, and that the recollection of it may give you pleasure. To me it was the beginning of a new era in my life. I never before felt that I had been so much delighted, nor that its termination was so much a source of regret. I look forward with great hope to future opportunities of the kind, if such be the means of enabling me to renew the acquaintance which I then had the happiness of forming with yourself. Pardon me, if I am presumptuous in saying so much as this, but I feel unable to restrain the utterances of something more than those usual polite inquiries which would follow my formal call in the usual manner. While saying this I do not forget that my introduction to you is so recent. To me it seems as if it had occurred long since, if time is to be measured by one's feelings. If you will allow me to become upon still closer terms of friendship I should regard myself as most fortunate and happy; and I do not disguise from you that I wait with great eagerness the favor of a kind word or two.

Your sincere admirer,

—GEORGE HARVEY.



## REPLY.

MR. GEORGE HARVEY.

DEAR SIR:—I am happy to say that I suffered nothing more serious than fatigue from last night's gathering, and thank you for your kind inquiries. If you think my friendship would be a source of pleasure to you, I see no reason why I should deny it, and therefore shall be happy to meet you on any future occasion, when chance should throw us together. As you justly say, however, our acquaintance has been of very short duration, and therefore I am sure that you will excuse my saying more than that I remain,

Your obliged friend, SELINA SLOANE.

FROM A LADY TO A GENTLEMAN, UPON HEARING OF HIS ILLNESS.

DEAR ARTHUR:

I have been very anxious for the past three days at your strange absence, and to-day your mother writes me the cause. I cannot tell you how sorry I am that it has been illness that has kept you from me; but hope, from the tenor of your mother's note, that you are now on the road to recovery.

You send word that you will come to me as soon as you are able to stand. I positively forbid you to be guilty of any such imprudence. Pneumonia is not to be trifled with, and my desire to see you is entirely subordinate to my desire for your perfect restoration to health.

Be prudent, dear Arthur, for my sake, and do not venture into this cold January air until you are entirely well. I shall then hope to see you.

In the meantime I will write to you, and, when you are able, will be glad to see your handwriting. Lovingly ever,

LOTTIE BURGESS.

ARTHUR HOLMAN, Esq.

FROM A YOUNG MAN WHO IS MODEST BUT SINCERE.

To MISS ANNA WATTS:

Since our last interview you have been constantly in my thoughts, and from your actions, if not your words, I gleaned that the love I have cherished for you during the past five months is in a slight degree reciprocated. Am I wrong in this conclusion? I pray not. If right, may I hope that some day in the near future you will become my wife? You are the one woman in this world for whom the intensity of my love is equalled only by its sincerity. Financially I have very little to offer you, but, with hard work, my prospects are promising, and what greater inspiration can a man have than the woman he loves to work for? I realize your superiority to me in every way, and yet I beg you to accept my name and a comparatively humble position, when you are fitted for and capable

of filling the highest position in the land. My only plea is that I love you. Feeling sure that, after giving this matter serious and deliberate consideration, you will write me frankly, believe me, with deepest respect and admiration, as anxiously awaiting your reply.

JAMES MCKNIGHT.

FROM A GENTLEMAN TO A LADY, REQUESTING HER PHOTOGRAPH.

DEAR JOSEPHINE:

Do you remember about a month ago promising me that, if I would give it the first place in my album, you would give me your photograph? I promised, and have faithfully kept the page blank, but my picture does not come. Have you repented of your generosity, or have other friends appropriated all that pile of cards you showed me? You cannot escape on the ground of poverty, for I know that your last sitting was a complete success, and have a great desire to own one of those exquisite profiles that you tantalize me by withholding.

Do, my dear Josey, send me at once the promised picture, that it may comfort me for absence from your presence.

Yours, most affectionately,  
KARL.

MISS JOSEPHINE DUKE.

FROM A GENTLEMAN TO A LADY, REQUESTING PERMISSION TO CALL.

MISS VICTORIA DAVIDSON:

Having had the pleasure of meeting you once at the house of our mutual friend, Mrs. Bowen, I venture to write to request permission to call upon you at your own residence. I have been but a short time a resident in this city, but your father will, I think, remember Mr. Martin Krider, of Chicago, who is my uncle.

Trusting that you will pardon the liberty I am taking, and grant me a position among your gentleman acquaintances, I am,

Very respectfully,  
H. T. KRIDER.

WILL YOU BE MINE?

TO MISS SARAH DAVIS.

DEAR SARAH:—As my duties will not allow me to see you in person for some time, I feel unable to refrain any longer from asking a question which has lingered on my lips for months. My actions have been such that you cannot have failed to see my intentions, and, as they have not been rebuked, I have concluded my feelings are reciprocated. As you are aware, I am alone, having no relatives, and I desire to have a companion—one for whom I shall use my every effort to make happy, and who will in turn do likewise. Will you be that companion? I have not taken this



step without first considering your happiness, that being as much to me as my own. My business is sufficiently profitable to support us, and I know I can give you as comfortable a home as the one from which I desire to take you. And I assure you that, unless I was sure of being able to keep sorrow as far away from you in the future as it has been in the past, I would not ask you to be mine.

I await what I trust will be a favorable reply.

Sincerely yours,

HARVEY STONE.

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A SIMPLE "YES."

TO MISS LOTTIE TRAVIS:

Doubtless you will not be taken wholly by surprise by what I am about to say. You surely must have known for some time that my feelings toward you were of a warmer nature than friendship. I have been sanguine enough to hope that I might be able to win a place in your affections, and now ask you what has so often risen from my heart to my lips, but which I have never had a fitting opportunity to express. I love you with a pure, devoted love. Will you allow me to call you some future day by the sacred name "wife?" I have my faults and shortcomings, but with the blessing of heaven upon us, and your sweet, womanly qualities to aid me, I shall endeavor to make you happy as mortal can be. If you will but look favorably on me, I know my own happiness is assured.

Do not disappoint my hopes, but when I call to-morrow evening for my answer, make me the happiest of men by a simple "Yes."

Your devoted,

SAMUEL BELL.

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LETTER OF FAREWELL TO A LADY, BEFORE STARTING ON A JOURNEY, REQUESTING AN INTERVIEW.

MY DEAR MISS PARKS:

I have received this morning a letter from the South, that will oblige me to start for Georgia this evening, and probably remain there for several weeks. Before leaving the city I am very anxious to have an interview with you, and assure you that much of my future happiness will depend upon your granting me this favor. If I call at your house at two o'clock, may I hope to find you at home?

Trusting that you will grant my request, I am, with deep respect,

Yours truly,

MISS SADIE PARKS.

ST. CLAIRE RAY.

## FAVORABLE REPLY TO THE FOREGOING.

ST. CLAIRE RAY, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—I shall be at home at the hour you propose, and will be pleased to see you.

Yours truly,

SADIE PARKS.

## UNFAVORABLE REPLY.

Miss Parks regrets that a prior engagement will prevent her receiving Mr. Ray this afternoon, but assures him of her most cordial good wishes for his having a pleasant journey and a safe and speedy return.

ST. CLAIRE RAY, Esq.

LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN TO HIS BETROTHED ON HER  
UNKIND TREATMENT OF HIM.

MY DEAR KATE:

I hope you will forgive me for asking your attention on a subject to which I had thought it would never have been necessary to recur. Why is it that, after what has passed between us, and after you have given me the promise which made me so supremely happy, you are in manner so cold and often in speech so unkind? If I could recollect a single cause for this change in you I should have no right to complain; but I do not recollect one. I have sincerely tried to please you in every possible way, but do not appear to succeed. My devotion to you has been, and is, thorough and quite unchangeable, but you do not seem to recognize it. Surely it cannot be that your heart has altered, and that you do not entertain the sentiments which you once delighted me by reciprocating? My dear K——, I ask these questions because I love you, not because I am grieved. It would be very wrong not to ask them, for upon such a subject there should be no misapprehension. It would be terrible for us to blind ourselves wilfully on such a matter. Do write and tell me that I am in error and that you are all to me that you ever were. I shall be overjoyed to receive such an assurance, and will submit to be scolded for dreaming the contrary possible.

Ever your affectionate

THEOPHILUS B——.

## REPLY.

If the lady is kind and loving she will perhaps write:

MY DEAR T——:

Consider yourself scolded severely for your very treasonable doubt of me. What I have done to deserve your letter I am unable to guess. I am perfectly sure I never intended to be otherwise



than affectionate, nor do I wish to be now. Of course I am much pained by what you say, and hope never to have such to read again. No, I have not changed. Will that be answer enough, Theophilus? It must suffice, excepting that I will add that I am, in spite of your, I must say, rather unjust accusation,

Ever yours sincerely,

KATE —.

#### NATURALLY TIMID.

To Miss LUCY HARGROVE.

DEAR LUCY :—Conscious of a natural timidity, which I cannot overcome, I dare not venture in any other way to open a subject of so delicate a nature, and in which I conceive so much of my future happiness is involved. Nor can I without trifling with my feelings any longer withhold a declaration of my attachment for you which I assure you is as pure and devoted as disinterested—formed not upon a slender basis, but upon a knowledge of your character and the amiable and endearing qualities I have found you possessed of. I now offer you my hand, with an assurance that, if accepted, the whole study of my life will be to make you happy, and without you this world will have but few enjoyments for me. Your reply to this will determine the extent of the future happiness or wretchedness of one who is proud to acknowledge himself your sincere admirer.

ARTHUR BROWN.

#### LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

To Miss LOTTIE STANSBURY.

DEAR LOTTIE :—You will, I trust, forgive this abrupt and plainly spoken letter. Although I have been in your company but once, I cannot forbear writing to you, in defiance of all rules of etiquette. Affection is sometimes of slow growth, but sometimes it springs up in a moment. I left you last night with my heart no longer my own. I cannot, of course, hope that I have created any interest in you; but will you do me the favor to allow me to cultivate your acquaintance? Hoping that you may regard me favorably, I shall wait with much anxiety your reply.

I remain, yours devotedly,

A. ALLEN.

#### ARDENT.

To Miss CHARLOTTE VONK.

DEAR CHARLOTTE :—My feelings have reached a point which demands expression, and I must tell you something which I hope may not seem to you unwelcome. I have felt for weeks that life meant nothing for me unless you passed through it by my side, as my precious little wife. I love you as ardently as ever man loved

a woman, and all that there is in me of good, whatever powers of mind or body, I will deem it the highest bliss to devote to you. Dear one, you must have felt something of this. When I have touched your hand it has seemed to me that the electric sensation which pervaded my whole being must have affected you. I put the matter to the touch to win or lose, because I can endure this agony of suspense no longer. I pray you by all that is holy in love to think deeply on my words, that I love you from my very soul. Will you make life a heaven for me by saying "Yes?"

Most respectfully yours,

PAUL PRESTON.

FROM A YOUNG MAN PROPOSING MARRIAGE.

To Miss HANNAH PALMER.

DEAR HANNAH:—"When there is love in the heart there are rainbows in the eyes." Dearest, you have thrown a sweet enchantment around me, and I am only happy when near you. By day your worth and beauty haunt me wherever I go, and at night your teasing blue eyes dance thro' all my dreams—my life, I love you!

"By all the token flowers that tell  
What words can never speak so well;  
By love's alternate joy and woe—  
*Zoe mou sas agapo.*"

Sweetheart, will you be my wife? I have plenty to make us happy. Our love will draw down the angels! Be my sun by day darling, and my moon by night. My halls are lonely. Eventide is dreary!

"Oh, then is the time when most I miss you,  
And I swear by the stars and my soul and say  
That I will have you, and hold you, and kiss you,  
Though the whole world stand in the way."

Be the bright angel of my existence, sweet, and I will love you!

"Till the sun grows cold,  
And the stars are old,  
And the leaves of the Judgment Book unfold!"

I remain, yours truly,

GEORGE ATRIDGE.

A GENTLEMAN INQUIRING WHETHER HE MAY NOT BE THE SUITOR  
PREFERRED OVER SEVERAL OTHERS.

DEAR MISS (*or Madam*):

Permit me, sharing as I do the admiration which is so universally tendered you by the gentlemen who have the happiness of your acquaintance, to lay at your feet the expression of my most earnest hope that you will favor me with your kind consideration of the following. In common with others, I have been rendered



your devoted worshipper, and would appear as a suppliant for your affection. It would appear mere affectation if I were to deny to others what I would wish granted to myself, namely, your belief in my sincere and ardent love for you. Nor do I claim to be more worthy than they are. But my happiness is so entirely in your keeping—I have loved you so long, and do love you so deeply, that if I were the one destined to be your choice, there will be for me a joy which I vainly attempt, even by anticipation, to hint at. If I dreamed that you had ceased to be free in this matter, I would not dare to approach you with this confession of my feelings. But I am not aware that you have expressed a preference for either of the aspirants for your hand. One of us may be honored by that preference—only one of us can be. Oh! that I may be that one, and that you may commit to me that precious gift of which my whole life will be the guardian and proud possessor. It is impossible that any one can feel more love for you than I do—I will not be so unjust as to assert that any feel less. I should be an unworthy competitor did I not be thus candid. May I pray that you will at the same time believe me when I say, that upon your decision rests all that I hope for of peace of mind in the future. Give me the right to prove my attachment and there is nothing more that I desire in this world. A line from you will be most anxiously watched for. I pray Heaven that I may be then at liberty to address you with a warmer conclusion to my correspondence than I venture now to employ, when I thus subscribe myself,

Most respectfully, your devoted admirer,

FELIX F——.

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A LETTER TO A LADY, COMPLAINING OF HER COOLNESS.

DEAR MISS W——:

How often have I passed my late conduct in review before me, endeavoring to discover by what word or act I could have given you offence. Vain, however, has been the attempt, for the offence which I have given must have been totally inadvertent, and could never have sprung from any intention to have given you even a moment's uneasiness. But that by some means I have had the misfortune to incur your displeasure, has been but too evidently indicated by the change of your behavior toward me, a change from the kindness of an attached friend to the cool indifference of a distant acquaintance. Of late, when in your presence, I have been many times upon the point of asking you upon what occasion and by what means I have displeased you? But as constantly have I needed the courage to do so, and my voice has failed me whenever I have endeavored to make the attempt. In the hopes of being eased from a painful state of anxiety, I write this letter, and trust that you will give me some explanation on the subject referred to, either by an answer in your handwriting, or through your own lips at our next meeting. But whatever that reply may

be, of this be assured, that my esteem for you can never know a change, and that you will ever live as a cherished object in the breast of him who now subscribes himself,

Yours, most affectionately and sincerely,

ROBERT —.

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A REPLY.

DEAR ROBERT:

Your kind letter satisfies me; and I now regret that, in the anxiety of my affection for you, I should have given way to anything resembling a doubt. Let no more be said on the subject, but hasten to the company of your affectionate and faithful

EMMA —.

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FROM A YOUNG MAN TO A YOUNG LADY WHOM HE HAS KNOWN  
SOME TIME.

TO MISS MAGGIE HOLMES.

DEAR MAGGIE:—When I began to love you I did not know what ills I was preparing for myself. The fear of hopeless passion has at times depressed me with despair, and yet the object of my adoration is such an inestimable prize that all the energy of my being forces me to strive for it. Since I first met you the world has changed its aspect. Some secret charm enlivens every object; all nature seems animated with the genial warmth of love. Your beautiful image is always before me; neither time nor place can deprive me of it, and it appears still more enchanting with each recurring vision. I wait with impatience the happy moment when I can see you again. You are surrounded by your family and friends, who adore you. You are the ornament of society and the admired representative of a nation. Alas! I have so little to offer in exchange for all these. But you are essential to my happiness, and if you will accept my love and become my wife I shall be inspired with new hopes and endeavors. It shall be the chief effort of my life to make you happy. Sincerely,

H. EDWARD CHARLES.

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FAVORABLE REPLY TO THE FOREGOING.

TO H. EDWARD CHARLES:

Your kind and manly letter opens my eyes to the fact that what I believed to be only a warm friendship is a stronger feeling. I see that it would be a pain to me to lose your visits and presence, and that such love as you promise your wife would make me very happy. You see that I answer you frankly, deeming it wrong to trifle with such affection as you offer to me.

I have shown your letter to my parents, and they desire me to say that they will be pleased to have you call this evening to see them. With kindest regards, I am,

Ever yours truly,

MAGGIE HOLMES.



### General Remarks as to Correspondence.

With the view of impressing upon our readers the importance of this subject, we would have them understand that much more depends thereon than is commonly supposed. Many frivolous words *spoken*, though at the time very stinging, are soon forgotten, but *written* words and sentiments are treasured for good or ill and have a lasting influence. Therefore a lady writing to a gentleman should always be extremely prudent in the use of terms, as therein are often depicted her whole mind and character, and sometimes, in the warmth of her affection, her honor may be at least qualifiedly involved. There are many phases in a lady's composition and character which are not evolved from her general appearance of form and feature. The writer has in mind a lady of surpassing loveliness whom all who saw did envy, until she entered into conversation or penned a letter; then the illusion vanished, and her superficialities were at once apparent and much of her language conveyed meanings not intended. A lady's understanding, accomplishments, attainments and tastes will appear in whatever she may write, and to a greater or less degree places herself in the power of another. Very often an ill written or imprudent letter has worked much mischief long after the subject matter thereof has apparently been forgotten by those most interested therein. Strong terms of affection and warmly worded vows of constancy have often exercised an unfavorable influence on a lady's good name when exhibited and quoted after she has discarded, from whatever cause, the correspondent to whom they were written.

It is not meant that the lady should refrain from all correspondence. On the contrary it would be reasonable and proper; but let her language be couched in such terms as not to occasion shame to herself or embarrassment to her friends in after time.

### General Conduct.

There is no character more contemptible than what is called a general lover. He can have no manliness of mind, and resigns all pretensions to dignity. He is an imitator, and commonly a very poor one, of the vain and heartless who have gone before him. He is generally laughed at by both sexes, and, what would be most annoying to his self-complacency, by those whom he seeks to conquer. No one thinks seriously about him, excepting when he succeeds in sacrificing the peace of some victim to his selfishness and vanity.

A young man should be very careful how he gaseonades in the presence of ladies. If he boast of his qualifications, be they what they may, his fair critics will be sure to find out his real pretensions.

To enter with seeming candor into the society of ladies, and then to mistake the mere amenities of good breeding for special at-

tentions, is the part of pitiable vanity, but to "affect" to mistake such kindness for feelings of deeper interest, and then to make these assumed conquests the subject of boasting in other quarters, is the part of a mean and dishonorable man, in whose face the menials of respectable families should be instructed to shut the door. He is beneath the attention of fathers and brothers, and the natural protectors of weakness and innocence.

### Advice to the Newly Married.

When

"Two souls with but a single thought,  
Two hearts that beat as one,"

are united in matrimonial bond, there are some practical, common sense rules which should be observed, so that the halcyon days may continue throughout an unending honeymoon. In the first place, let the husband have no concealments from his wife, but remember that their interests are mutual; that, as she must suffer the pains of every loss, as well as share the advantages of every success in his career in life, she has therefore a right to know the risks she may be made to undergo. We do not say that it is necessary, or advisable, or even fair, to harass a wife's mind with the details of business; but where a change of circumstances—not for the better—is anticipated or risked, let her by all means be made acquainted with the fact in good time. Many a kind husband almost breaks his young wife's fond heart by an alteration in his manner which she cannot but detect, but from ignorance of the cause very probably attributes to a wrong motive; while he, poor fellow, all the while out of pure tenderness, is endeavoring to conceal from her tidings—which must come out at last—of ruined hopes or failure in speculation; whereas, had she but known the danger beforehand, she would have alleviated his fears on her account, and by cheerful resignation have taken out half the sting of his disappointment. Let no man think lightly of the opinion of his wife in times of difficulty. Women have generally more acuteness of perception than men; and in moments of peril, or in circumstances that involve a crisis or turning point in life, they have usually more resolution and greater instinctive judgment.

Every husband, from the first, should make his wife an allowance for ordinary household expenses—which he should pay weekly or monthly—and for the expenditure of which he should not, unless for some urgent reason, call her to account. A wife should also receive a stated allowance for dress, within which limit she ought always to restrict her expenses. Any excess of expenditure under this head should be left to the considerate kindness of her husband to concede. Nothing is more contemptible than for a woman to have perpetually to ask her husband for small sums for housekeeping expenses—nothing more annoying and humiliating than to have to apply to him always for money for her own private use.

Let the husband beware, when things go wrong with him in



business affairs, of venting his bitter feelings of disappointment and despair in the presence of his wife and family ; feelings which, while abroad, he finds it practicable to restrain. It is as unjust as it is impolitic to indulge in such a habit.

A wife having married the man she loves above all others, must be expected in her turn to pay some court to him. Before marriage she has, doubtless, been made his idol. Every moment he could spare, and perhaps many more that he could properly so appreciate, have been devoted to her. How anxiously has he not revolved in his mind his worldly chances of making her happy ! How often has he not had to reflect, before he made the proposal of marriage, whether he should be acting dishonorably towards her by incurring the risk, for the selfish motive of his own gratification, of placing her in a worse position than the one she occupied at home ! And still more than this, he must have had to consider with anxiety the probability of having to provide for an increasing family, with all its concomitant expenses. He must necessarily return to his usual occupations, which will, in all probability, engage the greater part of his thoughts, for he will now be desirous to have it in his power to procure various little indulgences for his wife's sake which he never would have dreamed of for his own. He comes to his home weary and fatigued ; his young wife has had but her pleasures to gratify, or the quiet routine of her domestic duties to attend to, while he has been toiling through the day to enable her to gratify these pleasures and to fulfill these duties. Let, then, the tired husband, at the close of his daily labors, be made welcome by the endearments of his loving spouse—let him be free from the care of having to satisfy the caprices of a petted wife. Let her now take her turn in paying those many little love-begotten attentions which married men look for to soothe them—let her reciprocate that devotion to herself, which, from the early hours of their love, he cherished for her, by her ever-ready endeavors to make him happy and his home attractive.

In the presence of other persons, however, married people should refrain from fulsome expressions of endearment to each other, the use of which, although a common practice, is really a mark of bad taste. It is desirable also to caution them against adopting the too prevalent vulgarism of calling each other, or indeed any person whatever, merely by the initial letter of their surname.

A married woman should always be very careful how she receives personal compliments. She should never court them, nor ever feel flattered by them, whether in her husband's presence or not. If in his presence, they can hardly fail to be distasteful to him ; if in his absence, a lady, by a dignified demeanor, may always convince an assiduous admirer that his attentions are not well received, and at once and forever stop all familiar advances. In case of insult, a wife should immediately make her husband acquainted therewith ; as the only chance of safety to a villain lies in the concealment of such things by a lady from dread of consequences to her husband. From that moment he has her at advantage, and may

very likely work on deliberately to the undermining of her character. He is thus enabled to play upon her fears, and taunt her with their mutual secret and its concealment, until she may be involved, guiltlessly, in a web of apparent guilt, from which she can never extricate herself without risking the happiness of her future life.

Not the least useful piece of advice that can be offered to newly-married ladies, is to remind them that husbands are men, and that men must eat. Men attach no small importance to this very essential operation, and a very effectual way to keep them in good-humor, as well as good condition, is for wives to study their husbands' peculiar likes and dislikes in this matter. Let the wife try, therefore, if she have not already done so, to get up a little knowledge of the art of *ordering* a dinner, to say the least of it. This task, if she be disposed to learn it, will in time be easy enough; moreover, if in addition she should acquire some practical knowledge of cookery, she will find ample reward in the gratification it will be the means of affording her husband.

Servants are difficult subjects for a young wife to handle; she generally either spoils them by indulgence, or ruins them by finding fault unfairly. At last they either get the better of her, or she is voted too bad for them. The art lies in steady command and management of yourself as well as them. Dr. Clarke used to say, "It so extremely difficult to get good servants, that we should not lightly give them up when even tolerable. My advice is, bear a little with them, and do not be too sharp; pass by little things with gentle reprehension; now and then a little serious advice does far more good than sudden fault-finding when the offence justly occurs. If my wife had not acted in this way, we must have been continually changing, and nothing can be more disagreeable in a family, and, indeed, it is generally disgraceful."

Attention to this advice on the part of the newly-wedded wife will prolong her honeymoon throughout the whole period of wedded life, and cause her husband, as each year adds to the sum of his happiness, to bless the day when he first chose her as the nucleus round which he might consolidate the inestimable blessings of home.

"How fair is home, in fancy's pictured theme,  
In wedded life, in love's romantic dream!  
Thence springs each hope, there every spring returns,  
Pure as the flame that upward, heavenward burns;  
There sits the wife, whose radiant smile is given—  
The daily sun of the domestic heaven,  
And when calm evening sheds a secret power,  
Her looks of love imparadise the hour;  
While children round, a beauteous train appear,  
Attendant stars, revolving in her sphere."

Lives thus truly united give full realization to the happy thoughts contained in the following lines:

"Hand in hand, on the river of Time,  
We go floating down together;  
Soft are the blue skies above our heads,  
— Balm the spring-time weather.



"Brightly the waters reflect the sun,  
As we glide in dreamy splendor ;  
Softly the breezes fill our sails,  
Murmuring low and tender.

"Sweet are the bird songs upon the shores.  
Enchanting the scene around us ;  
With noiseless feet steal the moments by,  
Since Cupid, the love-god, crowned us.

"Oh, do you think, in the after years,  
With the glory of youth departed,  
We then shall stand still hand in hand,  
And heart to heart, as we started ?"

Here, too, is depicted the value of woman's love :

"The treasures of the deep are not so precious  
As are the concealed comforts of a man  
Locked up in woman's love. I scent the air  
Of blessings when I come but near the house.  
What a delicious breath marriage sends forth !  
The violet bed's not sweeter."

### Language of Flowers.

The kingdom of Flowers contains a wealth of sentiment more tersely expressed than gifted tongue can convey.

*Arbor Vita*—Unchanging friendship.  
*Apple Blossom*—My preference.  
*Alyssum*—Worth above beauty.  
*Aspen Tree*—Sorrow.  
*Blue Canterbury Bell*—Fidelity.  
*China Pink*—Hate.  
*Coreopsis*—Love at first sight.  
*Dead Leaves*—Heavy heart.  
*Forget-me-not*—True love.  
*Geranium*—Lost hope.  
*Hazel*—Let us bury the hatchet.  
*Hawthorn*—Hope.  
*Heliotrope*—You are loved.  
*Ivy*—Friendship.  
*Lily of the Valley*—Happy again.  
*Linden Tree*—Marriage.  
*Marigold*—I am jealous.  
*Myrtle*—Unalloyed affection.  
*Pansy*—Think of me.  
*Pea*—Meet me by moonlight.  
*Peach-Blossom*—My heart is thine.  
*Phlox*—Our souls are united.  
*Pink, red*—Woman's love.  
*Rose*—Perfect beauty.  
*Rose-Bud*—My heart knows no love.  
*Rose Geranium*—You are preferred.

*Sweet William*--Let this be our last.

*Tulip*--Declare your love.

*Wall-Flower*--You will find me true.

*Yellow Lily*--You are a coquette.

### Commands.

It is quite a general custom for husbands to lay commands upon their wives and wives upon their husbands, sometimes in a loving spirit, and sometimes with much asperity. Here are some laid down for the government of those who may choose to accept them :

#### HUSBAND'S COMMANDMENTS.

Thou shalt love no other man but me.

Thou shalt not have a daguerreotype or any any other likeness of any man but thy husband.

Thou shalt not keep it in secret, and worship it ; for I, thy husband, am a jealous husband.

Thou shalt not speak thy husband's name with levity.

Remember thy husband's commandments to keep them sacred.

Honor thy husband and obey him, that thou may'st be long in the home he has given thee.

Thou shalt not find fault when thy husband chews and smokes.

Thou shalt not scold.

Thou shalt not permit thy husband to wear a buttonless shirt, but shall keep his clothing in good repair.

Thou shalt not continually gad about, neglecting thy husband and family.

Thou shalt not strive to live in the style of thy neighbor, unless thy husband is able to support it.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's fine house, nor his fine furniture, nor his wife's thousand dollar shawl, nor her fifty dollar handkerchief, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Thou shalt not go to Women's Rights meetings, neither to speak thyself nor to hear others speak.

Thou shalt not scold if thy husband stays out till after twelve o'clock at night.

Thou shalt not sum up large bills at the stores, which thy husband is unable to foot ; for verily he knoweth his means.

#### WIFE'S COMMANDMENTS.

Thou shalt have no other woman but me.

Thou shalt not have a picture or likeness of any other woman but me ; for I only am thy wife, and a jealous wife.

Remember thy wife's commandments to keep them sacred.

Love and cherish thy wife, and no other woman ; that you may live lovingly together in the home thou gavest unto her.

Thou shalt not find fault when thy wife goes out to spend money, buying fashionable shawls and dresses ; for I am thy wife. Thou



shalt not scold. Thou shalt not suffer thy wife to wear a threadbare dress, but shall keep her decently clad and in good repair. Thou also shalt furnish buttons and thread to keep thine and thy children's shirts in order. Fail not.

Thou shalt not gad about, from saloon to saloon, after sunset, neglecting thy wife and children.

Thou shalt not dress thyself in fashion, unless thou dress thy wife also.

Thou shalt not go to spiritual or other slight-of-hand meetings, neither to speak thyself, nor hear others speak; thus saith thy wife.

Thou shalt not find fault if thy wife should fail in getting the meals in due time; for, knowest thou, O man!—better late than never.

Thou shalt not drink beer nor spirits, nor chew, nor smoke; for knowest thou it consumeth money. Verily, verily I say unto thee: I am mistress of the house thou gavest unto me.

### Versions of Love.

In all ages and all climes there have been and are various versions of "the tender passion." Here are some of them:

1. Love is a fond caressing.
2. Choose wisely, then love fondly.
3. Be sure you love wisely.
4. First love is very sweet.
5. Cherry lips and blushing cheeks.
6. A fairy form arms entwining.
7. She I love will not wear the breeches.
8. A lovely form, with flaxen hair.
9. Sweet, Oh! lovely are sweet kisses.
10. Eyes with deepest blue, shine with love for you.
11. One fond embrace, Oh! lovely face.
12. Oh! fancy form to see, to love.
13. Love is union of hearts and hands.
14. Man often loves not wisely.
15. Oh! for some one to love sincerely.

### Dining Table Signaling.

Drawing a napkin or handkerchief through the hand—I desire to converse by signal with you.

Holding it by the corners—Is it agreeable?

Playing with fork—I have something to tell you.

Holding up the knife and fork in each hand—When can I see you?

Laying both together left of the plate—After the meal.

Clenching right hand on table—To-night.

Napkin held with three fingers—Yes.

Held with two fingers—No.  
 Holding napkin to chin with forefinger to mouth—Cease signaling.  
 Standing knife and fork thus, A—Can I meet you?  
 Balancing fork on edge of cup—Are you engaged to-night?  
 Striking fork with knife—I shall go out.  
 Balancing fork on knife—Meet me.  
 Placing knife over the glass—Will you be alone?  
 Stirring spoon in cup slowly—Will you be late?  
 Slapping the ear, as if brushing away a fly—I don't understand.

### Window Signaling.

Open right hand to side of face—I greet you.  
 Forefinger of left hand on chin—I desire an acquaintance.  
 Forefinger of left hand—Favorable.  
 Three fingers of right hand moved up and down—Yes.  
 Two fingers of right hand (the same)—No.  
 Open hand on the forehead—I am a stranger.  
 Kissing the fingers of the left hand—I love you.  
 Both hands clasped—I am engaged.  
 Two little fingers locked—I am at leisure.  
 Arms folded across breast—I would I were you.  
 Forefinger of right hand over mouth—Warning to cease signaling.  
 Left hand clenched as fist—To-night.  
 Both hands clenched as fists—To-morrow.  
 Both hands clenched and taking one away—To-morrow night.  
 Taking both hands away—This evening.

### Postage Stamp Flirtation.

Upside down on left corner—I love you.  
 Same corner, crosswise—My heart is another's.  
 Straight up and down—Good-bye, sweetheart.  
 Upside down on right corner—Write no more.  
 In the middle, at right hand edge—Write immediately.  
 In centre, at top—Yes.  
 Opposite, at bottom—No.  
 On right hand corner, at a right angle—Do you love me?  
 In left hand corner—I hate you.  
 Top corner, at the right—I wish your friendship.  
 Bottom corner, at left—I seek your acquaintance.  
 On line with surname—Accept my love.  
 The same, upside down—I am engaged.  
 At right angle, same place—I long to see you.



## Poesy.

Love, Courtship and Marriage have each and all been depicted in poetical language throughout civilization, and manifold are the expressions in verse of the heart's endearments as well as all other of the human passions. "From grave to gay, from lively to severe," the whole gamut has been run in their portrayal, and that soul must indeed be dead to all the finer sensibilities of nature that has not been stirred to its inmost depths by some poetic strain. Note how Hamlet depicts to Ophelia the intensity of love:

"Doubt thou the stars are fire;  
Doubt that the sun doth move;  
Doubt truth to be a liar;  
But never doubt I love!"

And this, by Fletcher:

## TO MY ONLY CHOSEN WIFE.

"Think not, fair love, that chance my hand directed,  
To make my choice my chance; blind chance and hands  
Could never see what most my mind affected;  
But Heaven (that ever with chaste true love stands)  
Lent eyes to see what most my eyes respected;  
Then do not thou resist what Heaven commands;  
But yield thee his, who must be ever thine;  
My heart thy altar is, my breast thy shrine."

## SONNET.

"Go, God of Love, and tell that lovely maid  
Whom fancy still will portray to my sight,  
How here I linger in this sullen shade,  
This dreary gloom of dull monastic night;  
Say, that from every joy of life remote,  
At evening's closing hour I quit the throng,  
Listening in solitude the ring dove's note,  
Who pours like me her solitary song:  
Say, that her absence calls the sorrowing sigh;  
Say, that of all her charms I love to speak,  
In fancy feel the magic of her eye,  
In fancy view the smile illumine her cheek,  
Court the lone hour when silence stills the grove,  
And heave the sigh of memory and of love."

## SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY.

"She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meets in her aspect and her eyes:  
Thus mellowed to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.  
  
"One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impaired the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er the face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express  
How pure, how dear, their dwelling place.

"And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
 So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
 The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
 But tell of days in goodness spent,  
 A mind at peace with all below,  
 A heart whose love is innocent."

—BYRON.

#### THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

"While others, fair one, use their pens  
 To vindicate the rights of men,  
 Let us, more wise, to bliss attend ;  
 Be ours the rights which they defend.  
 Those eyes that glow with love's own fire,  
 And what they speak so well inspire ;  
 That melting hand, that heaving breast,  
 That rises only to be prest ;  
 That ivory neck, those lips of bliss,  
 Which half invite the offer'd kiss ;  
 These, these—and Love approves the plan—  
 I deem the dearest Rights of Man."

#### ONLY TELL HER THAT I LOVE.

"Only tell her that I love,  
 Leave the rest to her and fate ;  
 Some kind planet from above  
 May, perhaps, her pity move.  
 Lovers on their stars must wait  
 Only tell her that I love.

"Why, oh why, should I despair?  
 Mercy's pictured in her eye ;  
 If she once vouchsafed to hear,  
 Welcome hope, and welcome fear ;  
 She's too good to let me die ;  
 Why, oh why, should I despair?"

—CURTIS.

#### SHE WAS A PHANTOM OF DELIGHT.

"She was a phantom of delight  
 When first she gleamed upon my sight ;  
 A lovely apparition, sent  
 To be a moment's ornament ;  
 Her eyes as stars of twilight fair ;  
 Like twilight's, too, her dusky hair ;  
 But all things else about her drawn  
 From May-time and the cheerful dawn—  
 A dancing shape, an image gay,  
 To haunt, to startle, and waylay.

"I saw her upon nearer view,  
 A spirit, yet a woman too !  
 Her household motions light and free,  
 And steps of virgin liberty ;  
 A countenance in which did meet,  
 Sweet records, promises as sweet ;  
 A creature not too bright or good  
 For human nature's daily food—  
 For transient sorrows, simple wiles,  
 Praise, blame, love, kisses, tears, and smiles.



"And now I see with eye sereno  
 The very pulse of the machine ;  
 A being breathing thoughtful breath,  
 A traveller between life and death ;  
 The reason firm, the temperate will,  
 Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill ;  
 A perfect woman, nobly plann'd,  
 To warn, to comfort, and command ;  
 And yet a spirit still, and bright  
 With something of an angel light."

—WORDSWORTH.

#### FORGET ME NOT.

"Take it, this little flower ; take it, and think of me ;  
 Think, in the hours of loneliness, of the one who gave it thee ;  
 Place it within thy bosom, let it never be forgot,  
 But let it whisper oft to thee, the words 'Forget me not.'  
 Think of it in the joyous crowd, when all around is bright,  
 Think of it when I'm far away and severed from thy sight ;  
 Think of it whether far or near, whatever be thy lot ;  
 Oh ! let it speak the words to thee, 'Forget me not !'"

#### THE COMPOSITION OF A KISS.

"Cupid, if storying legends tell aright,  
 Once fram'd a rich elixir of delight—  
 A chalice o'er love-kindled flames he fixed,  
 And in it nectar and ambrosia mix'd :  
 With these, the magic dews which evening brings,  
 Brushed from the Italian star by fairy wings,  
 Each tender pledge of sacred faith he join'd,  
 Each gentler pleasure of the unspotted mind—  
 Day-dreams, whose tints with sportive brightness glow,  
 And Hope, the blameless parasite of Woe.  
 The eyeless chemist heard the process rise,  
 The steamy chalice bubbled up in sighs,  
 Sweet sounds transpir'd, as when the enamor'd dove  
 Pours the soft murmuring of responsive love.  
 The finished work might envy vainly blame,  
 And 'Kisses' was the precious compound's name.  
 With half the god his Cyprian mother blest,  
 And breathed on Sara's lovelier lips the rest."

—S. T. COLERIDGE

#### YES OR NO.

"Forgive me—but I needs must press  
 One question, since I love you so ;  
 And kiss me, darling, if it's *Yes* ;  
 And darling, kiss me if it's *No*."

#### LOVE DEARLY PRIZED.

"How prized the coral and the shell,  
 And valued, too, the pearl ;  
 Who can the hidden treasures tell  
 O'er which the soft waves curl ?  
 Yet dearer still my love to me  
 Than all in earth, and air, and sea."

## TO A LADY WITH A PAIR OF GLOVES.

"Fairerest, to thee I send these gloves;  
If you love me, leave out the 'g,'  
And make a pair of loves."

## SUBLIME, DELICATE AND PATHETIC.

"Oh, dear! I die, indeed I do,  
So fervent is my love for you,  
I do, indeed, sweet miss;  
Oh! for some friendly hangman's rope,  
Or else some physic from the Pope,  
Or else, dear girl, a kiss.

"And as my breast for you doth burn,  
Pray can't you give some small return  
To raise my grief-struck soul?  
Nor *knife*, nor *sword*, nor *razor-blade*,  
Should then our mutual love invade,  
Till our death-bell did toll.

"If you refuse, oh! cruel fair,  
My brains I'll scatter in the air  
(*If any I have got*);  
Or else, too charming girl! you'll see  
I'll dangle on some *willow-tree*,  
For wind and rain to rot.

"And when my ghost's allowed to rise,  
Its grizzly form shall meet thine eyes,  
If thus you fix my doom;  
And as Alonzo's ghost was seen  
To bear away false Imogene,  
I'll bear you to the tomb!"

## A MOTHER'S BEST GIFT.

"A mother yields her gem to thee,  
On thy true breast to sparkle rare,  
She places 'neath thy household tree  
The idol of her fondest care,  
And by thy trust to be forgiven,  
When judgment wakes in terror wild,  
By all thy treasured hopes of heaven,  
Deal gently with the widow's child."

## HER MATCH.

"Which is the flower, so sweet and rare,  
That can with my dear love compare?  
Fair white lilies, having birth  
In their native genial earth;  
These, in scent and queenly grace  
Match thy maiden form and face."

## MARRIAGE TIES.

"Once linked to thee  
By ties more gentle than the coupling silk  
That pairs two snowy doves."



## TRUE LOVE.

"Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:—

"O, no! it is an ever fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering barque  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

"Love's not time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickles compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom;

"If this be error, and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved."

—SHAKESPEARE.

## LOVE'S FAREWELL.

"Since there's no help, come let us kiss, and part—  
Nay, I have done, you get no more of me;  
And I am glad, yea, glad with all my heart,  
That thus so cleanly I myself can free;

"Shake hands forever, cancel all our vows  
And when we meet at any time again,  
Be it not seen in either of our brows  
That we one jot of former love retain.

"Now at the last-gasp of love's latest breath,  
When his pulse failing, passion speechless lies,  
When faith is kneeling by his bed of death,  
And innocence is closing up his eyes.

"Now, if thou would'st, when all have given him over,  
From death to life thou might'st him yet recover."

—MICHAEL DRAYTON.

## HOPES.

"All golden thoughts, all wealth of days,  
Truth, Friendship, Love surround her.  
So may she smile till life be closed,  
And angel bands have crowned her!"

## FIRST LOVE.

"The wide world has one only spot  
Where I would wish to be;  
Where all the rest of life forgot,  
"I first loved thee!"

## A LOVER'S WISHES.

"May health and peace and joy  
Thy course through life attend,  
And nothing sad destroy  
Thy hours, my lovely friend."

## I WOULD ONLY LOOK ON THEE.

"Day, in meeting purple dying,  
 Blossoms all around me sighing,  
 Fragrance from the lilies straying,  
 Zephyrs with my ringlets playing,  
 Ye but waken my distress ;  
 I am sick of loneliness.

"Thou to whom I love to hearken,  
 Come ere night around me darken ;  
 Though thy softness but deceive me,  
 Say thou'rt true and I'll believe thee ;  
 Veil, if ill thy soul's intent,  
 Let me think it innocent !

"Save thy toiling, spare thy treasure ;  
 All I ask is friendship's pleasure ;  
 Let the shining ore lie darkling,  
 Bring no gem in lustre sparkling :  
 Gifts and gold are naught to me,  
 I would only look on thee ! "

—MARIA BROOKES.

## THE PURITY OF LOVE.

"There is a bud in life's dark wilderness,  
 Whose beauties charm, whose fragrance soothes distress ;  
 There is a beam in life's o'erclouded sky,  
 That gilds the starting tear it cannot dry ;  
 That flower, that lonely beam, on Eden's grove  
 Shed the full sweets and heavenly light of love.  
 Alas ! that aught so fair could lead astray  
 Man's wavering foot from duty's thornless way.  
 Yet, lovely woman ! yet thy winning smile,  
 That caused our cares, can every care beguile ;  
 And thy soft hand amid the maze of ill  
 Can rear one blissful bower of Eden still ;  
 To his low mind thy worth is all unknown,  
 Who deems thee pleasure's transient toy alone ;  
 But oh ! how most deceived, whose creed hath given  
 Thine earthly charms a rival band in heaven !  
 Yet thou hast charms that time may not dispel,  
 Whose deathless bloom shall glow where angels dwell ;  
 Thy pitying tear in joy shall melt away,  
 Like morn's bright dew beneath the solar ray ;  
 Thy warm and generous faith, thy patience meek,  
 That plants a smile where pain despoils the cheek ;  
 The balm that virtue mingles here below  
 To mitigate thy cup of earthly woe—  
 These shall remain, when sorrow's self is dead,  
 When sex decays, and passion's stain is fled."

—BERESFORD.

## BLESSINGS.

"When thy foot is at the altar,  
 When the ring hath pressed thy hand,  
 When those thou lovest and those that love,  
 In groups around thee stand.  
 Oh ! may the rhyme that friendship weaves,  
 Like a spirit of the air,  
 Be o'er thee at that moment,  
 For a blessing and a prayer."



## UNRUFFLED LIFE.

"Such be your gentle motion,  
 'Till life's last pulse shall beat,  
 Like summer's beam, and summer's stream,  
 Float on, in joy, to meet  
 A calmer sea, where storms shall cease—  
 A purer sky where all is peace."

## LOVE'S WELCOME.

"Come in the evening, or come in the morning—  
 Come when you're look'd for, or come without warning;  
 Kisses and welcome you'll find here before you,  
 And the oftener you come here the more I'll adore you.  
 Light is my heart since the day we were plighted;  
 Red is my cheek that they told me was blighted;  
 The green of the trees looks far greener than ever,  
 And the linnets are singing, 'True lovers don't sever.'"

"I'll pull you sweet flowers to wear, if you choose them!  
 Or, after you've kissed them, they'll lie on my bosom;  
 I'll fetch from the mountain its breeze to inspire you;  
 I'll fetch from my fancy a tale that won't tire you.  
 Oh! your step's like the rain to the summer-vex'd farmer;  
 Or sabre and shield to a knight without armor;  
 I'll sing you sweet songs till the stars rise above me;  
 Then, wandering, I'll wish you, in silence, to love me."

"So come in the evening, or come in the morning—  
 Come when you're look'd for, or come without warning;  
 Kisses and welcome you'll find here before you,  
 And the oftener you come here, the more I'll adore you!  
 Light is my heart since the day we were plighted;  
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 The green of the trees looks far greener than ever,  
 And the linnets are singing, 'True lovers don't sever.'"

—THOMAS DAVIES.

## THE BOUQUET SECRET.

"Truth! she makes a pretty picture  
 Sitting there beside the fire;  
 In her hand are crimson roses—  
 Dare I breathe my heart's desire?  
 To that hand how I aspire!"

"As she holds my gift—the roses—  
 Does she for their meaning seek?  
 Maiden, do not, for their story  
 Makes me sad. To me they speak  
 Of no salary next week!"

## KISSES.

"The poet who wrote of  
 'The kiss on the stair,'  
 And was 'thrilled to his eight finger tips,'  
 Would have shown a little  
 More sense, I declare,  
 If he'd taken a kiss on the lips."

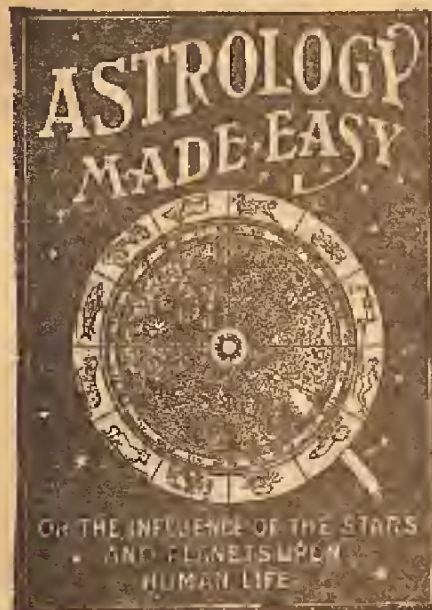
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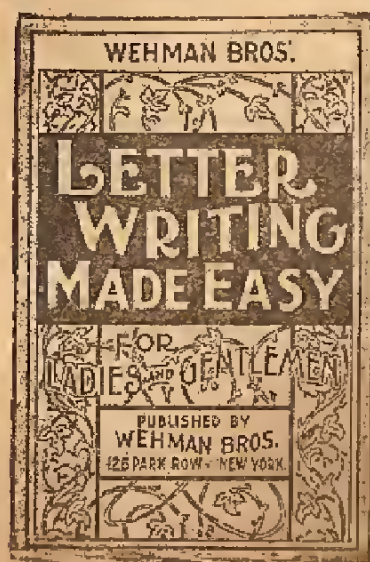
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
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